

the Stranger

JUNE
19

JULY
2

YOU NEED
TO KNOW

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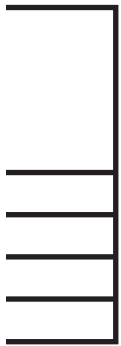
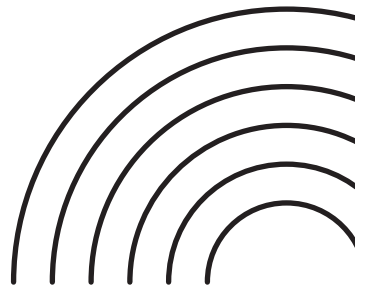
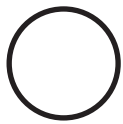
P. 21

**QUEER
ISSUE**

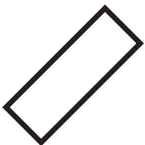
FK.
TRUMP**

PRIDE 2019

COMPASS

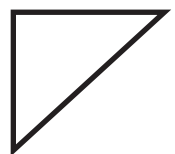


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BELONG



COMPASS

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JUNE
19

JULY
2

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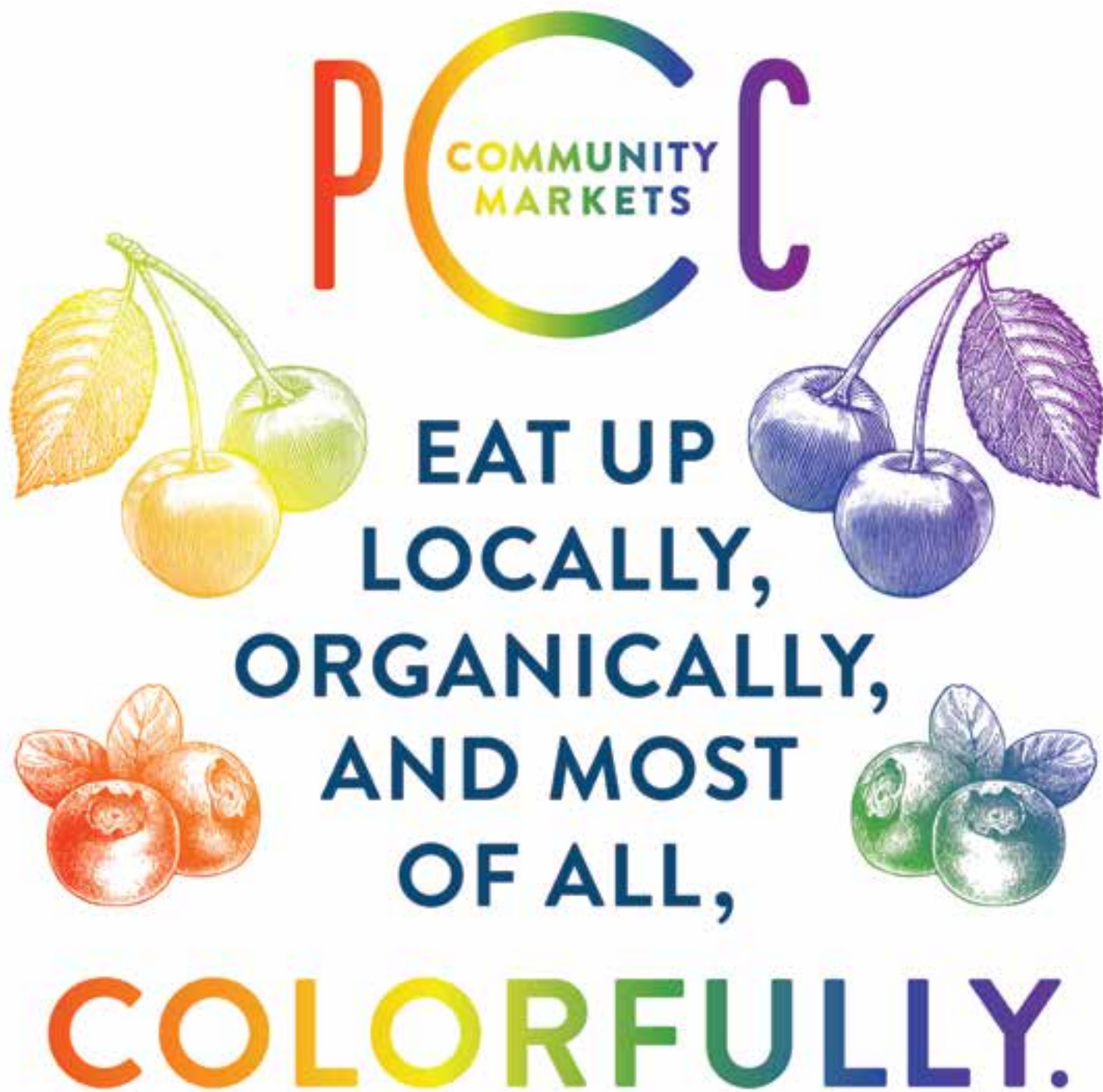
YOU NEED
TO KNOW

**MS.
BRIQ
HOUSE**
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**QUEER
ISSUE**

FK.
TRUMP.**
ONE THING WE CAN
ALL AGREE ON
THIS PRIDE

ARTISTS, REFUGEES, SOLDIERS, AND COMEDIANS ON LIFE UNDER THE CHEETO-IN-CHIEF **P. 9**




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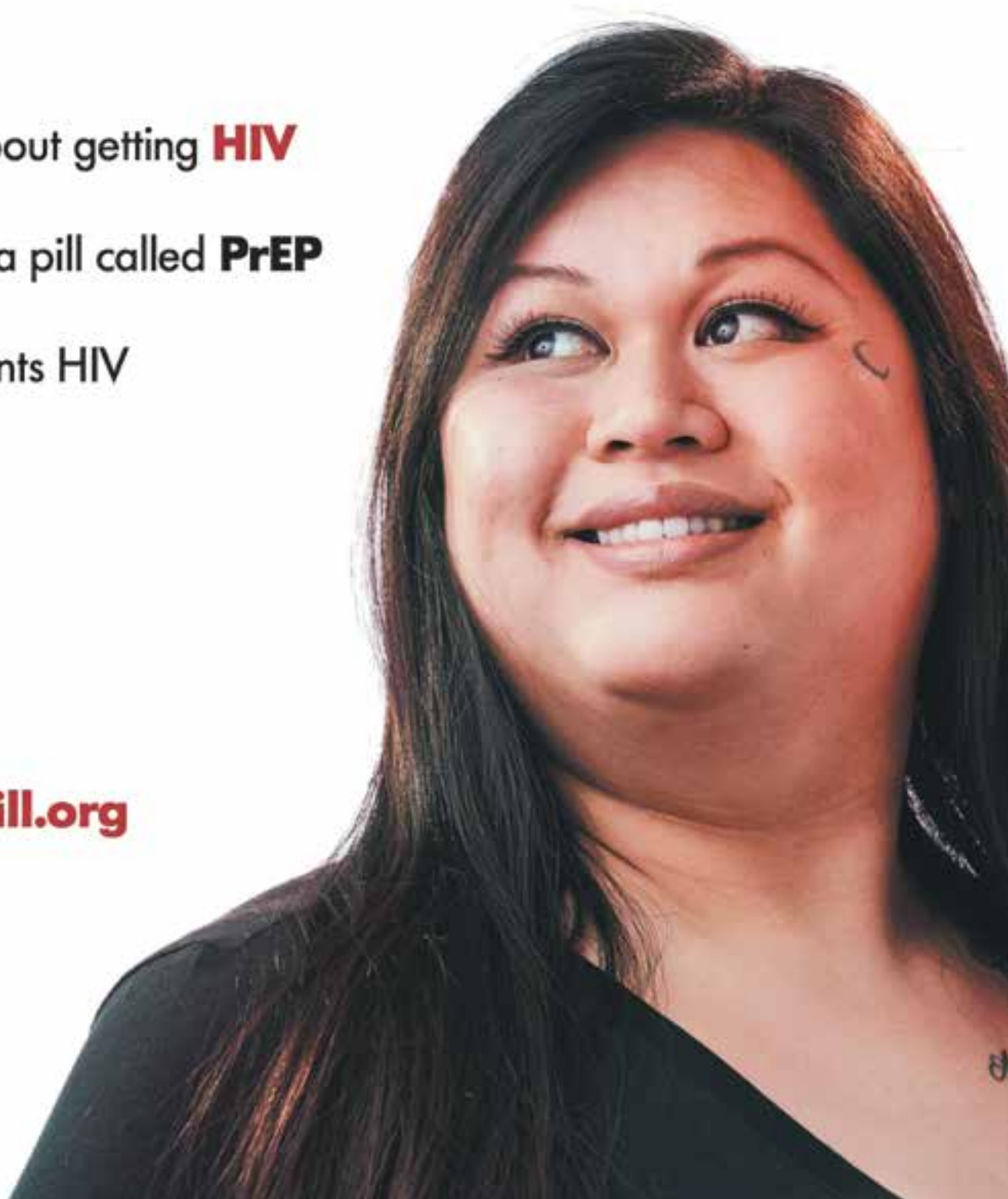
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theStranger

VOLUME 28, ISSUE NUMBER 22

June 19–July 2, 2019



COVER ART

Ms. Briq House photographed by Steven Miller
StevenMillerPhotography.com

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FORTNIGHT

What you missed if you've been showering Ms. Briq House with money for the last two weeks. Plus: Who threw the first brick at Stonewall?

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QUEER ISSUE

Fuck Trump! It's one thing we can all agree on.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



JOHNNY SAMPSON

A reader named Dr. Pam Van Allen e-mailed us saying: "In the *Stranger's* write-up of School of Rock's ELO performance next month, the article characterized the '70s and '80s band as '70s power rock relics of the past.'" The doctor took issue with us calling them "relics" because ELO have concerts scheduled and a new album coming out, and she added: "Perhaps said author should check the definition of 'relic.'" Or perhaps you should, Pam? Google's dictionary says a relic is "an object surviving from an earlier time." Cambridge Dictionary says a relic is "an object, tradition, or system from the past that continues to exist." Collins English Dictionary says: "If you refer to something or someone as a relic of an earlier period, you mean that they belonged to that period but have survived into the present." So unless you're saying they're dead, "relic" works. Take *that*, doctor!

Who Threw the First Brick at Stonewall?

A butch dyke threw the first brick at Stonewall.

A drag queen threw the first brick at Stonewall.

A trans woman of color threw the first brick at Stonewall.

A sex worker threw the first brick at Stonewall.

A nonbinary, AFAB, transmasculine, femme-presenting, heteroamorous pansexual threw the first brick at Stonewall.

Michael Tolliver threw the first brick at Stonewall.

Jeremy Irvine threw the first brick at Stonewall.

Anna Wintour threw the first brick at Stonewall.

Meghan McCain threw the first brick at Stonewall—at the protesters.

There were no bricks to throw at Stonewall—
Manhattan was all mud huts with thatched roofs
in 1969.

Adoptive parents David Grant and Mort
Rabinowitz threw the first bris at Stonewall.

Top privilege is why we talk about who pitched
that first brick but never about who caught it.

According to eyewitness accounts from participants in the first night of rioting outside the Stonewall Inn after a police raid—an event that kick-started the modern movement for LGBTQ liberation and equality—no one threw the first brick at Stonewall, because no bricks were thrown at Stonewall.



I, ANONYMOUS



STEVEN WEISSMAN

Had I known that I would be living next to YOU, madam, I would not have dumbly signed a two-year lease to live in this suburban apartment complex. You get Meals on Wheels, but you don't need it; you have two fake service dogs, TWO!; and you fake multiple disabilities. I'm pretty sure that if you actually did have leukemia, epilepsy, a broken back, or that egg-sized brain tumor like you claimed, you'd be dead by now. Luckily, I put in my 30-day notice, and I am about to blitz your ass with complaints. All the shit you get away with that I've spoken to you about countless times? I will report you: Every. Single. Time. You smoke on your patio, let your dog shit in my yard, make a peep after 10 p.m., let your meth-head ex park in the spot I pay for... EVERYTHING. I can't wait to get the hell out of here. **ANONYMOUS**

SOMETHING TO GET OFF YOUR CHEST?

E-mail 200 words or less to
ianonymous@thestranger.com



Coffee man **Howard Schultz**, who has been threatening to run for president as an independent because he doesn't want to pay his fair share in taxes, announced plans to take a summer vacation from his book tour. As his doctor, *The Stranger* suggests Schultz **take the next two or three years off**, just to make sure he gets the rest he needs.

Seattle Times real-estate reporter **Mike Rosenberg** resigned his post after allegedly sending inappropriate Twitter messages to the writer Talia Jane. Rosenberg claimed he "**accidentally**" slid into Jane's DMs, called her beautiful, and then said "there is so much cum on your face."

This is just your random reminder that ***Seattle Times* publisher Frank Blethen** shot his neighbor's dog with a pellet gun in 1996. Never forget.

Governor Jay Inslee's Department of Labor & Industries announced a rule change that will increase the number of salaried workers eligible for overtime. If you're a salaried employee **making up to \$70,000** in 2026, your employer will owe you time and a half for every hour you work over 40 hours per week, no matter what your job description is. Right now, the threshold is \$23,000. So way more people will be eligible for overtime. The six-year phase-in starts on July 1, 2020.

The **Seattle City Council** approved plans to build affordable housing in Fort Lawton. The collective screams from **Magnolia NIMBYs** were heard from outer space.

The Stranger dug into all the Seattle City

Council candidates' financial records and found some interesting things: **Shaun Scott** (D4) has an affinity for Thai food; **Brendan Kolding** (D1) keeps dry cleaning one suit; **Kate Martin** (D6) billed a subscription to the *Economist* to her campaign because she ran out of free articles; and **Pat Murakami** (D3) has billed enough mileage to her campaign that she could have nearly driven all the way to Tijuana.



GETTY IMAGES

Resting.

Ludovic Morlot conducts his final program as the music director for the Seattle Symphony on June 20 and 22–23. The innovative French conductor is going out with a bang, showcasing composers he loves (Debussy and Wagner) and highlighting the **Seattle Symphony Chorale**, the **Northwest Boychoir**, and the symphony's own oboe principal **Mary Lynch** as a soloist. "I wanted the whole family to be onstage," Morlot said in a recent interview.

NPR shined the spotlight on 15 Seattle

musicians "redefining" our city's music "beyond grunge," among them, hip-hop heavies **DoNormaal** and **Gifted Gab**, post-blues rockers **the Black Tones**, uke-slinging dance music DJ/producer **Chong the Nomad**, and the heady experimental outfit of Ishmael Butler and studio maestro Erik Blood called **Knife Knights**. Other noteworthy locals who made the cut: Julia Shapiro, Emma Lee Toyoda, Tres Leches, and Versing. It's a surprisingly solid list.

The city council approved plans to build affordable housing in Fort Lawton.

A grocery store in Vancouver, BC, has come up with a novel way of discouraging people from using disposable plastic bags: printing weird shit on them, for instance, **Weird Adult Video Emporium** and **Wart Ointment Wholesale**. The chances of this backfiring as people flock to the store for the mildly amusing bags are 100 percent. ■

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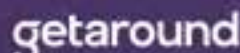
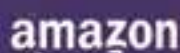
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FUCK TRUMP!



It's one thing we can all agree on. Welcome to our 2019 Queer Issue.

Fifty years after the Stonewall Inn uprising, and after decades of enormous strides for queer equality, you would think that life would be a breeze by now. Instead, everyone's fighting with each other.

People fight about which colors should be on the Pride Flag, and whether straight people should be allowed to have a flag (not if it's that butt-ugly one!!!!). People fight about who's allowed to be a drag queen (and who's allowed to say who's allowed). People fight about whether douching is necessary (c'mon, guys, the last thing we need is a resurgence of santorum). People fight about R Place vs. Queer Bar (even though the sickening drag happens at Kremwerk). People

fight about Katie Herzog (which kinda makes sense—she's a pain in the ass!). People even fight about Stonewall and who threw the first brick (even though no one threw any bricks—although there was a kick-line).

All you have to do to get in a fight with someone these days is express an opinion. Or leave the house. Or breathe. So when trying to choose a theme for this year's Queer Issue, we sat around *The Stranger's* office going: What can we all agree on?

"Fuck Trump!" is our answer. In a world of infighting, anxiety, confrontation, and measles, we need to come together as a community and remind ourselves of what we jointly believe in. And the Cheeto-in-chief is the reason we're all at each other's throats in the first place. He showed that if you're aggressive enough in your assholery, you can tweet your way into the Oval Office.

So, yeah, fuck that guy. Just don't *actually* fuck him, or anyone who voted for him, okay?

He makes up stories about MS-13 gang members crossing the border in caravans, but never bothers to mention the refugees who are themselves on the run from MS-13—people like Marbella Caporr, a trans woman who escaped unimaginable violence in El Salva-

dor and is now living in Seattle. See page 10.

He spits in the face of transgender people every day, including the transgender soldiers who are literally willing to sacrifice their lives for this country. See page 41.

He brags about assaulting women, to the shock of young women just now becoming old enough to vote. See page 29.

But despite what he has done to our sanity, our safety, and our sense of what human hair should look like, queer leaders continue to fight to create a better world.

Ms. Briq House, our gorgeous cover model, is a femme black queer performer and community advocate and absolute *goddess* who hosts a monthly night called Sunday Night Shuga Shaq. If you do not already know about her, you need to fix that. See page 21.

Bobby Higley is a comedian who escaped Mormonism in Utah and Idaho to become one of the most outlandish stand-ups on the Seattle scene. See page 25.

Emily Randall is the first state senator in Olympia to identify as queer—and spent her first legislative session this year explaining what that means to old white guys. See page 37.

Adé is a fixture in the nightlife scene who

works at Pony and Re-bar and has an interesting perspective on the way Capitol Hill has changed. See page 43.

Pete Buttigieg is the first openly gay man to seek the presidency, and even more bizarre, he actually has a decent shot to unseat Trump. See page 35.

Rain City Jacks is a men's jack-off club in Pioneer Square where categories like "gay" or "bi" or "straight" (or "Democrat" or "libertarian" or "pescatarian") don't divide people like usual, because they never come up. See page 18.

White Center is so dreamy and diverse, the residents just celebrated their own Pride this year. We sent Chase Burns down there to meet the locals and report back. See page 45.

And rounding out the issue is grumpy grandpa Katie Herzog ~~telling us all to get off her lawn~~ reminding us how much worse things used to be for the gays, and how much we have to be thankful for, even with what's-his-name in the White House. See page 31.

Plus: We have every damn Pride event in the city! See page 61.

Happy Pride, everyone! (And confidential to Judy Garland: We still miss you!!)

—CHRISTOPHER FRIZZELLE

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MS-13 Threatened to Kill Me for Being Trans

Miraculously, I escaped El Salvador, received asylum in the United States, and now live in Seattle.

BY MARBELLA CAPORR
AS TOLD TO GREGORY SCRUGGS

PHOTOS BY JUSTICE LATRIECE

Marbella Caporr is from El Salvador and spent 10 months in the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma before receiving asylum in January 2019. Members of Seattle synagogue Kadima have been sponsoring her as she transitions into life as a legal permanent resident. Gregory Scruggs is a journalist and Kadima member who has helped her with translation and navigating local bureaucracy. He also pays for her ORCA card and occasional meals and basic living expenses. She agreed to share her story, which is drawn from a sworn affidavit prepared for her asylum hearing and also from a sit-down interview Scruggs conducted, both translated from the original Spanish. All names, including Caporr's, have been changed or removed for safety. Three of Caporr's relatives are living in the United States with pending asylum cases. —Eds.

Ever since I can remember, I have wanted to be a girl. I was born in a male body, but I identify as a woman. While my mother and sisters accepted me, my father did not. My dad hit me with a machete case just for asking for a kiss from my mother. He said I brought shame on the family and needed to be punished. He said I was a curse and it would be better if I died.

When I was 12, my dad made me take more than 200 pills that supposedly were to produce masculine hormones. He made me take two a day. The only thing the pills did was make me gain and then lose a lot of weight, giving me stretch marks.

Around the same time, men in my town in El Salvador started harassing me on the street. They could see that I carried myself more like a girl. Many of the men in our neighborhood would mock me when I walked down the street. They would shout that they were

going to fuck me. Sometimes they would call me *marica* or faggot or things that meant that my anus was big from having anal sex.

At 13, tired of the humiliations, mistreatment, beatings, and curses, I decided to leave the house.

When I was about 17 or 18 years old, I began to sell perfumes out of catalogs, and as a result, I spent more time in the town center. On those trips, I met other gay or transgender people. Some of us decided to rent an apartment together.

These friends encouraged me to dress up in women's clothes in public. I had always done this at home, but with their help and support, I felt comfortable enough to do it in public with them. The first time, I went with some friends to a dance club. It was beautiful—I felt supported and understood by my friends, and some guys danced with us. It was a wonderful experience.

VIOLENCE AND EXTORTION

In March 2010, I was raped by five men while washing clothes in the river in my old neighborhood. I recognized them immediately—they were some of the men who had harassed me my whole life.

They stripped off my clothes and tied my hands. They kicked my testicles and burned my legs with lit plastic, leaving scars I have to this day. They peed on my face and shoved it in the sand. Then they took turns raping me. They did it in a way that showed how much they hated me.

Throughout the attack, they told me I brought shame on myself. They said I wasn't a man because I dressed like a woman. They said that I was going to make the local women think that all men liked men. They said horri-

ble, horrible things to me.

At the end, one of them put a glass bottle in my rectum. They threatened to kill me if I reported them. Then they departed, leaving me practically unconscious with my hands still bound and the bottle still inside me.

I eventually got up and went to a neighbor's house, barely able to walk. He knew I was transgender and had accepted me, so I told him what happened. He went with me to the closest police station. When I spoke to the sergeant, he didn't take any notes. I told him the names of the men who attacked me and everything they did to me. He listened. Then he said they could not do anything and that the patrol car was broken. He also said that I had been asking for it because I sometimes dressed up like a woman, tempting men. He said that I knew very well that nobody cared about faggots.

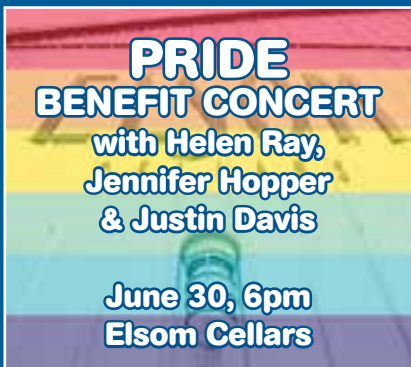
I started to have nightmares that my attackers were following me. I thought about death constantly and had sudden moments where I couldn't breathe. I had visions of crosses with dates on them that I thought were the day I was going to die. I had nightmares of being in a room and water coming in over the walls, more and more water coming in, and I couldn't get out.

This attack still affects me. I still yell in my sleep and wake up from nightmares about these men finding me again. They say things like "We found you finally" and "This is what we've been waiting for."

In August 2012, I was with six transgender friends at a park in San Salvador at 10 p.m. We were all dressed in women's clothing. A police patrol car approached us. Some soldiers and police officers got out and forced us onto our knees. They beat us with their guns and told us that they were not going to tolerate this



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filth in the town. They said they were protecting kids from us—they didn't want children to think that it was okay to be like us.

The police imprisoned us for two days in a very crowded room with a bunch of men. We were still dressed in women's clothes, and the police told the men that they were giving them "fresh meat." The men cheered and everyone knew what was going to happen. We knew there was no point in telling the officers about the abuse afterward.

At the beginning of 2014, MS-13 gang members began to extort us in exchange for not killing us. They said that we had to pay them to stay alive because we all knew the police wouldn't protect us. They threatened our relatives too if we didn't pay up. They told us that the police wanted to kill or imprison us. We knew it was true, and we didn't have any other option but to pay them.

One night in October 2014, I was heading home with friends when we saw four men running in one direction, leaving a body in the street. We got close to the body and saw that it was Pablo, a gay friend of ours. Shortly

relatives and seven of my friends have been killed in El Salvador for being gay or transgender, or being related to gay or transgender people.

ESCAPE THROUGH MEXICO

I left El Salvador in February 2015 and crossed the Rio Grande in March. The border patrol detained me, and I spent two months requesting asylum in a Texas detention center. I left after paying a \$4,000 bond and then spent 10 months in California. At the time, I was in a relationship with a Mexican man. One day, I got a call that another friend had been killed in El Salvador and I got really upset. I took antidepressants and the man I was dating gave me some pills, too. Then I lost consciousness.

When I woke up, I was in a hotel room in Tijuana and my boyfriend had disappeared. I panicked. I went to the police station. They told me if I tried to go back to the United States again, I would be put in prison.

I tried to contact my boyfriend, but he



Two relatives and seven friends have been killed for being gay or transgender.



JESSICA STEIN

In preparation for being photographed for this article, Caporr got a makeover at the clothing store Indian Summer.

after the killers ran off, a police patrol car arrived from the same direction the killers had run.

We watched as police officers put the body in the car and drove off. This showed us the police were covering up the crime, if not directly involved in the murder. I recognized the men as cops, including an officer who beat me in 2012.

Several days later, a police officer called and threatened to kill me for observing Pablo's murder unless I paid \$800, which I did out of fear for my life. Since 2011, two of my

didn't answer his phone. I knew my aunt and gay cousin were coming to Mexico because people were trying to kill my cousin. They told me I could stay with them in Chiapas. Once I got to Chiapas, I finally got in touch with the man I had been dating, and he told me he thought I was going to die when I overdosed and he didn't want to get in trouble in the US, so he took me to Mexico. I was unconscious at the time, so I don't know how he took me across the border.

In Chiapas, I worked at a cantina that my aunt had rented. A woman who owned the



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business next door wanted me and my cousin to sell cocaine for her. She assumed we were promiscuous because of our sexuality and therefore would be good people to sell drugs. We declined to sell cocaine for her, and she got angry. She told us that we had HIV and were going to infect everyone else. Her sons started to yell homophobic slurs when they saw us.

At this time, I was hoping that I could live in Mexico safely, and I requested asylum. The problems with the neighboring business owner had already started, but I thought we could work it out. I knew I couldn't go back to El Salvador, and I knew I'd be detained again if I went to the United States.

In July 2017, Mexico gave me asylum. But I soon realized this would not mean safety. In January 2018, the neighboring business owner, her husband, and her sons showed up early one morning with wooden bats and attacked us. They said that we were fucking fags who brought shame to the community.

About a month later, I went with my aunt to buy shrimp for the restaurant. While we were out, her son—my gay cousin—was shot and killed. My aunt told me to run away so that the

because it was from Mexico, so I felt very distressed and agitated.

After six days, we were handcuffed again at night and put on a bus to the airport when I had a panic attack. I threw up in the toilet and collapsed there. Other detainees shouted to the officer to help me. He said, "Leave him there, let him die."

We arrived at the airport at dawn. Once aboard, the flight attendant said that in case



The day my cousin was shot and killed in Mexico, because he was gay, I fled.

same thing wouldn't happen to me.

The same day my cousin was killed, I fled.

I had been in contact with an LGBTQ shelter in Tijuana via Facebook, and I decided to go there. But I still wasn't safe. Less than a week later, I was in a public bathroom in the city center wearing women's clothes. Inside, a man approached me with a knife and threatened to kill me. He forced me onto my knees and made me strip off my clothes in front of him. I was terrified he was going to rape or kill me.

He asked me about another gay man he wanted to kill, who he said had raped his younger brother. He said I must know who he was because I was gay, too. The whole time he was yelling at me, he either had the knife on my throat or on my back. He made me lie on the ground, put my head down, and count to a thousand. He stole my watch and wallet.

After this, I understood that I couldn't stay in Mexico a day longer. In March 2018, I went to the border at San Ysidro, even though I knew it would mean I was going to be detained, and requested asylum again.

LAND OF THE FREE?

Border patrol put me in a freezing, overcrowded cell with 40 other men where we slept on the floor with only a space blanket. After four days, they handcuffed us and put us on a bus to Arizona. I was not allowed to take my depression and anxiety medication

of emergency, we had to reach up and pull down the oxygen mask. How were we supposed to do anything in case of emergency with our hands and feet tied? It was stupid and illogical.

At the Tacoma detention center, they registered us and sent us straight to our cells. I asked again for my anxiety medication. The psychiatrist gave me something different instead. Since I never got the medicine that I truly needed for my anxiety and depression, I never could get better there. I even got to a point where I thought about throwing myself off the second floor. I had a panic attack during my first court date and the judge suspended the hearing. It was a very difficult life.

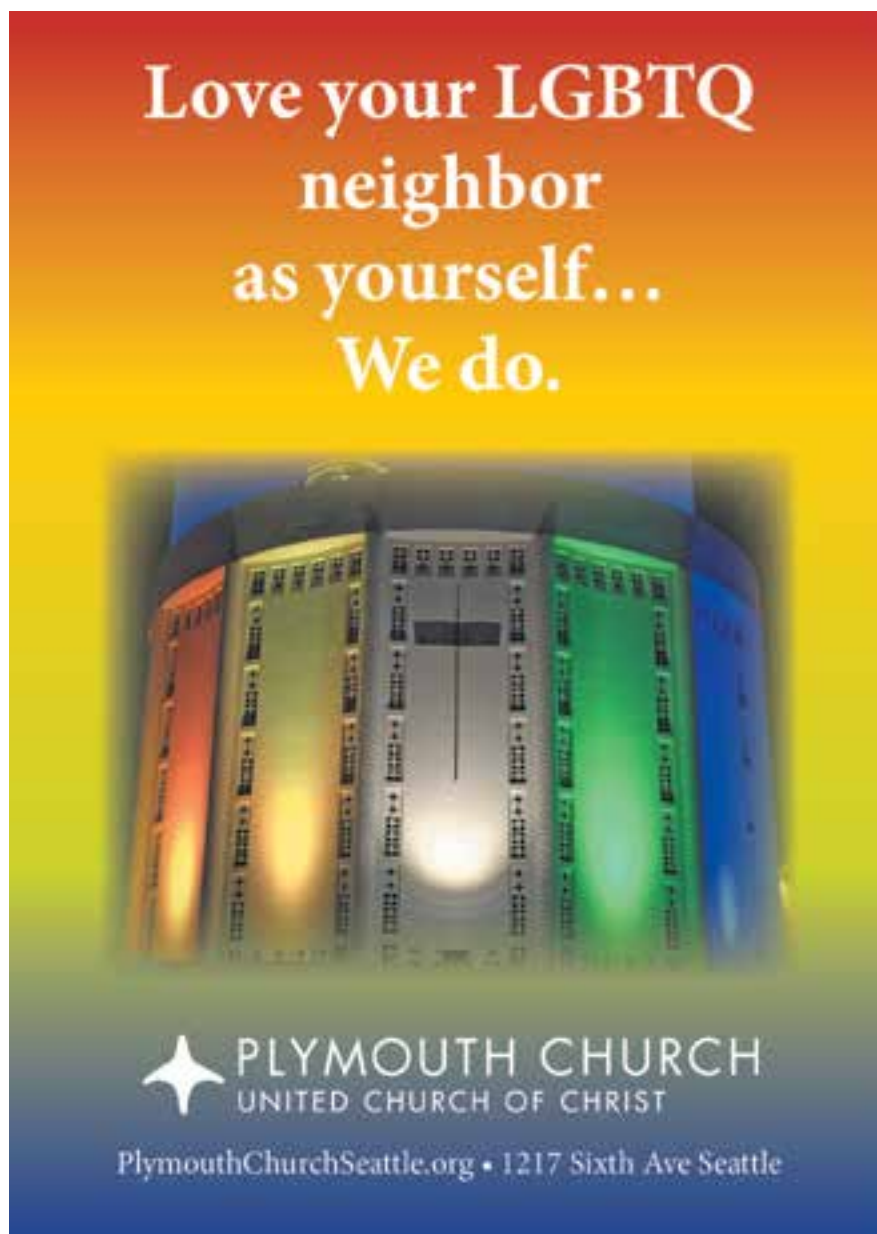
I was eventually connected with Maru Mora Villalpando from the Northwest Detention Center Resistance [now known as La Resistencia], and I explained that I didn't have a lawyer. She helped me however she could, like putting money in my account so that I could make a call or buy some food in the commissary.

Alison Hollenbeck, a lawyer with the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, took my case and helped me prepare my declaration, detailing my history in El Salvador and Mexico. She warned that our hearing was going to take at least four hours.

The judge had already read the documentation, however, and the hearing was over in 15 minutes. The judge said: "You are a person who has suffered greatly. If you return to your country, you will be at risk, so I am going to give you asylum and you will be able to work legally in this country."

At first, I didn't understand. Alison was laughing and saying, "Yes, we did it. We won." We cried from the emotion. It was very beautiful.

An hour and a half later, I was outside



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After her very first makeover in the United States, Caporr was beaming.

where my niece, who also fled El Salvador and requested asylum, was waiting for me. I spent a month in Hillsboro, Oregon, with a friend I made in the detention center, but I couldn't get help with my medical issues or figuring out how to finalize my work papers. Maru told me to come to Seattle and connected me with Kadima, which told me they had a place for me to live with an older lady named Ellie who has a dog.

From then until now, I've been living with Ellie and feeling very good. I have gotten a Social Security number, Medicaid, an I-94 immigration arrival form, refugee cash assistance, and an ORCA LIFT card. I am taking English classes at Casa Latina and attending events at Entre Hermanos. I also applied for a warehouse job with Amazon.

When I arrived, the only thing I knew about Seattle was the Space Needle. I was shocked the first time I saw two people of the same sex holding hands. In my country, doing that is like a death penalty. Ellie told me that was normal here. I saw a lot of rainbow flags on Capitol Hill and signs saying refugees are welcome here. I've never been discriminated against here. It makes me feel freer.

One night, I went to Queer Bar. The men were divine. It was very different than the bars in El Salvador. There you go in scared, thinking somebody is suddenly going to attack you or will be waiting to kill you when you get out. People here are very open-minded and love each other no matter their sexual orientation or the color of their skin.

I went to the South Park Pride Picnic. I really liked it because there were a lot of people who aren't from the LGBTQ community but they support the cause. There were children and married couples showing their support. In my country, the people who aren't LGBTQ don't go to these events, especially not with their children.

I'm ready for my first Pride parade. I don't know yet how I am going to dress. In El Salvador, only about 400 people came to marches. People heckled us from their cars and threw bags of water at us.

My biggest challenge is English. When I arrived, my dream had three components: (1) get asylum, (2) learn English, and (3) learn to drive. But now I see that living here in Seattle, I don't need to drive. There are a lot of ways to get to places without needing to drive. So right now, since I've got asylum, my priority is to learn English.

I still feel vulnerable about dressing as a woman in public—worried that somebody might hurt me. I am waiting for the right moment. When I have a job and live independently, I will do what I really want.

I hope one day to have a partner who treats me like a woman. Someday I would like to take hormones and become more womanly. I have always wanted to see myself more like a woman. I would like to have breasts, a higher voice, and not have facial hair. I pray that I could be myself and not be in danger. But this is something that could never happen in El Salvador or Mexico.

Now I am in the place where I should have been born. ■

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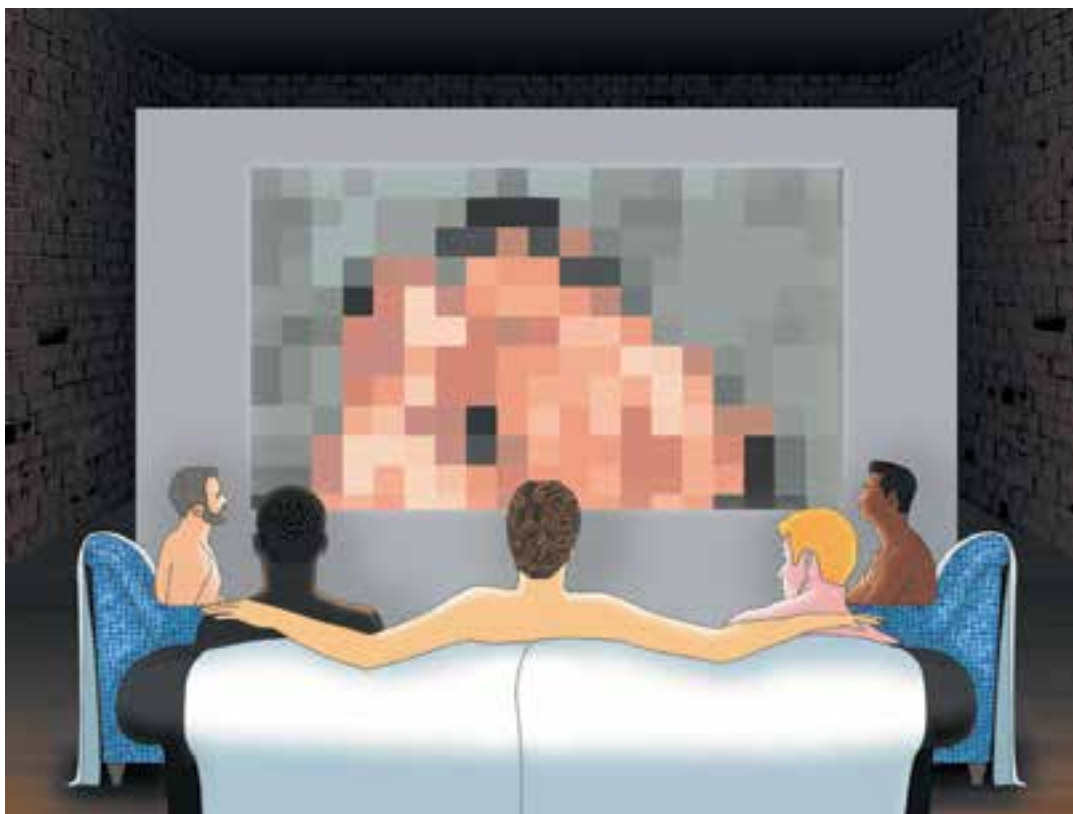
Come As You Are

Seattle's premier men's jack-off club—a space beyond political categories— isn't just for gay guys.

BY CHRISTOPHER FRIZZELLE

On a Tuesday evening earlier this month, I was walking down First Avenue South in Pioneer Square, in the direction of the stadiums. The other pedestrians on the sidewalk included a cute bearded guy in slacks and leather shoes, a bald guy in a green T-shirt, and a hipster in all black.

Right before we got to a shop selling Seahawks and Sounders jerseys, all three of them ducked into a nondescript brick building with Gallery Erato written on the window. We were all going to Rain City Jacks, a men's jack-off club that has been gathering in various spaces throughout Seattle since 2005. The very first meet-up was in a suite at the Silver Cloud Hotel on Capitol Hill, and only five men showed up. But on June 11 at Gallery Erato, 165 men showed up to celebrate the club's 14th anniversary.



RACHELLE ABELLAR

He just wanted to be admired. He looked like a Marine."

It's a new experience for gay guys, too, not being divided up into categories. "There are no tops and no bottoms," Rosenberg said. "It doesn't exist for this club. That's irrelevant here. And I love that. Consent is all that matters, and everything else doesn't."

"And there's a greater degree of comfort knowing that no one's drinking," Michael said. "This is a bit more of a safe space. It's one of the few places people can get together socially and sexually and not have toxins present."

As for the rule that you can only jack off, Marty pointed out: "Sometimes the restrictions of what you can or can't do add to the tension and make it extra hot. And you never have to worry that a few days later, you're going to get that phone call that someone at the party gave you something. You get to have that intense connection—"

"Without the anxiety," said Michael, finishing his sentence.

"Knowing what the expectations are can be freeing in a whole new way," said Tim, whereas a gay bathhouse "doesn't have the same group camaraderie. If I go to a bathhouse, I just spend all this time walking around and not connecting and doing nothing."

"In a bathhouse, there's a certain desperation," Marty agreed. "A desperation to get fucked or to fuck someone. But here you can just sit in the corner and watch if you want."

I did a lot of watching at the 14th anniversary party, but I also had interactions with half a dozen guys. Purely for anthropological reasons, of course. And journalistic reasons. Also, I wanted to see what it was like letting someone come all over my chest in front of 163 other people. An old friend I ran into obliged. Before that happened, we were sitting side by side on a love seat watching a group of guys standing in a sports huddle, whispering to themselves and stroking. One of their elbows kept accidentally (gently) jostling a painting of a naked woman on Gallery Erato's wall. The gallery is run by the Pan-Eros Foundation, which hosts and produces events around art, sex, and sexuality.

Rain City Jacks convenes on Tuesday nights and Sunday afternoons on alternating weeks—see raincityjacks.org for the calendar. The typical turnout for a party is about 70 people, and the Sunday afternoon parties are said to be slightly better attended than Tuesday nights.

"It's wholesome, clean fun," Marty said, with a gleam in his eye. "It's like going to church for me on Sunday." ■

The membership of Rain City Jacks is 65% gay, 25% bi, and 10% straight.

Because of the club's strict rules—no oral sex, no anal sex, nothing going inside anyone's anything—all kinds of guys show up, not just gay guys. "I ask every now and then," the club's founder, Paul Rosenberg, 60, told me. "It's actually 10 percent straight, 25 percent bi, and 65 percent gay."

Really? Is that 10 percent actually straight? "I've talked to some of those guys, and they are," said Rosenberg, who in his professional life used to work for Starbucks corporate and long before that was a vocalist at a dinner theater in Aspen, Colorado. "I keep hearing the term 'male bonding.' It's the best male bonding they've ever experienced. They feel a connection with other men that they didn't imagine was possible."

New members go through a brief orientation on their first visit, stressing the confidentiality of the club—if you see someone from the club out in the real world, you're supposed to pretend you don't know them—and then they stash their clothes in lockers downstairs. Up in the play space, the room is filled with various things to sit on: couches, chairs, chaises, beanbag chairs, benches, ottomans, a massage table. Everything is covered in canvas sheets. Membership dues—\$20 for a 30-day trial, \$40 for a year



THE STRANGER

Paul Rosenberg (left), founder of Rain City Jacks, photographed at home in West Seattle.

getting together in this way with other guys has definitely increased," said a third volunteer, Michael, who's been attending meet-ups since 2006.

Being in the club is like stepping into another dimension, a place where Trump doesn't exist, a place that feels almost sacred in its humanism. Labels like "gay" and "straight" are just as irrelevant here as labels like "Republican" and "Democrat." Rosenberg told me: "It feels like a great escape from all those concerns. It's an escape from everything else. I just have a connection in the moment."

Where else can human beings exist in 2019 without being chopped up into political categories? Where else can you appreciate and celebrate men's bodies without having to explain your identity? "In my life, I have a lot of biases and resentments about CEOs and conservatives," Rosenberg said, taking the idea a step further, "and I'm sure we've had guys who are really rich or really conservative. But at our club, it just doesn't matter. I really like how I connect with men and men's sexuality here."

Still, what would a straight guy get out of an all-male jack-off club? "Sometimes they want to check under the hood and show off. They know a woman doesn't want to check out their big dick, but guys will!" Marty said. "They're going to get more validation from other guys—gay or straight. I remember a big dude, six-foot-four, huge cock, and he just stood there in the middle of the room and let everyone worship him. And touch him.

membership—pay for the club's laundry service, venue rental, and liability insurance.

Guys sit around in a room of exposed brick walls jacking off and watching others jack off. You can help others jack off if they give you permission. There are jack-off videos projected onto a big screen. There are so many different ages, body types, and kinds of cocks, it's hard to describe. There was also, at the anniversary party, "our first open trans man," Rosenberg said. "I felt like a proud papa."

"I've learned not to label people so much," Tim, one of the volunteers, told me.

"Sometimes on a Sunday, there's a Seahawks game and there will be hundreds of people streaming past, and none of them have any idea what we're doing on the other side of that door," said Marty, another volunteer. "I joke with Paul: We need to start handing out flyers to all the hot straight dads."

"The number of guys who are okay with

queer/pride

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“I’m a Black Woman. I’m a Black God.”

Ms. Briq House is a queer black femme educator, burlesque performer, and host of Sunday Night Shuga Shaq.

BY JASMYNE KEIMIG
PHOTOS BY STEVEN MILLER

On a warmish Sunday night, a line of people spooled its way out onto the sidewalk in front of Theatre Off Jackson. The people were pretty diverse—tall, short, brown, black, white, ambitious-hat wearers, people of different genders and sizes. The show was running a little late.

There was an anxious buzz in the air; everyone was excited to see the Sunday Night Shuga Shaq, the only all person of color burlesque revue in Seattle.

As we all made our way inside, there was a mad dash to stake out territory. The VIP members got the plush couches close to the low stage in front. My friend and I managed to edge out another group of queers for a wobbly table in the back. The inside of the theater felt a bit incongruous with the sexual nature of the event. A boat hung on the far wall, and there were a lot of wooden beams, giving the space a meeting-hall vibe. I overheard the word “labia” thrown around a couple of times, immediately thought of splinters, and winced.

“I was always really harassed in church for being too sexy.”

As we settled in, though, I noticed that the audience at Shuga Shaq was wonderfully blacker and queerer than a lot of other spaces I find myself in. I appreciated the different hairstyles I spotted: fro-hawks, braids, kitty cat wigs, dreadlocks, picked-out fros, teeny-weeny fros, dyed fros. Monica’s “Angel of Mine” and Aaliyah’s “Rock the Boat” played in the background.

Next to me, a performer and her boyfriend nomed down some Chinese takeout they bought nearby. The crowd slowly began to get their drinks and pull out their dollar bills. It smelled good. The wood began to melt away, and one got the idea that anything could happen.

After a while, the music got quieter and the force that brought each and every one of us to the show entered the room: our host, Ms. Briq House. Thick as hell, clad in a bright neon-green lace lingerie onesie, diamond pasties, six-plus-inch black leather boots, and giant hair, Briq made her way to the stage, mic in hand. Beaming, she told the crowd, “Y’all look almost as good as me.” Reader, that’s not even close to being true.

“I’m a very proud black woman. Being femme and being queer and being a sex worker and being a spiritual healer and a teacher—those



“I wanted a show that represented my folks: my trans folks, my larger bodied folks, my dark skin folks.”

are parts of who I am,” Briq told me on another occasion, over drinks in Northgate. “But before I’m anything else, I’m a black woman, I’m a black god.”

Briq is a force to be reckoned with (or worshipped). She’s been hosting the Sunday Night Shuga Shaq for five years now, which she runs with associate producer Sin de la Rosa every second Sunday of the month. In addition to her hosting duties, Briq is a sex-

work advocate, intuitive intimacy instructor, educator, burlesque performer, producer, professional cuddler, and Seattle native.

“I’ve been here my whole life, 33 years,” she said. She grew up between her grandparents’ house in the Central District and where her mother stayed in Federal Way, and she graduated from Rainier Beach High School. During the Great Migration, her family came from Birmingham to Seattle, with her

great-grandparents and great-aunts finding work at Boeing. Reminding me that, at one point, the historically black Central District had been called “Coon Hollow,” Briq emphasized how black her childhood was here in Seattle.

“I tell everybody all the time, my upbringing was very beautiful and black. A lot of times, people come to Seattle and they’re like, ‘Oh my God, how was it growing up as a

black person here?’ I’m like, the same as any other person growing up with black family, black friends—my whole experience was very black and brown.”

Her family raised her Southern Baptist, and religion was a huge part of Briq’s life early on. She was deeply involved in her church, working in full-time ministry and at other Christian organizations. She married at a very young age. “That was not what we should have done, but we thought that’s what we were supposed to do because we were Christian,” she explained.

Eventually, Briq and her husband realized that the religion they’d spent their entire lives investing in wasn’t something that truly fit who they were as people and who they wanted to love. They both wanted to figure out who they were outside of what they’d been told to be.

“I was always really harassed in church for being too sexy, too outgoing, too spirited,” she told me. “I was always pushing back against things, even in church. So once I got free from that shit, it was just a beautiful thing of like: *This is mine. I can do whatever the fuck I want with it.*”

At 25, Briq divorced her husband (they’re still friends) and left the church. Having no plan B (“I was raised to be a wife, I didn’t know anything other than that”), she admitted to going through a period of depression, wondering what would come next. Briq had been performing in plays, theater, and dance performances her entire life, so when a friend suggested she try burlesque, it made perfect sense (now that she was free from the strict sexual mores of the church).

“Because I was going through my divorce, not only from my husband, but also from my religion, I realized that the only reason I hadn’t tried burlesque was because of my religion,” she told me. “So once I no longer had that belief system to hold on to, I was like, oh well, yeah, I’ll try it... It really helped me reclaim my identity, reclaim my body, reclaim everything that I was told in the church was negative.”

There was a lot of talk about God at Shuga Shaq. Namely in the form of Briq, who can also be addressed as “Goddess.” Her lap dances, which audience members bid on, are said to have stirred up divine fits of total ecstasy in the recipient’s soul. “Your goodies are God,” Briq told the lot of us in between performances, with a smile that was equal parts mischievous and sweet. I believed her.

Briq entered the burlesque scene at a time when she says many performers were very thin and white. Outside of being featured in shows by other performers of color like Dr. Ginger Snapz, a pioneer of black and brown burlesque in Seattle, Briq was often the darkest and largest person in a show.

“I was tired of that, and I wanted a show that represented my folks: my trans folks, my larger bodied folks, my dark skin folks, my light skin folks, black and brown bodies, folks of different abilities—you know, everything,” she said. “So I decided to make the show that I wanted to see, because I wasn’t about to wait for nobody else to do it.”

The show started as Heartbreak Hotel, a one-off performance at the Can Can featuring women of color telling their stories

of heartbreak and triumph. It sold out, with a line that wrapped around the corner. It eventually morphed into Shuga Shaq, moving from the Can Can to Theatre Off Jackson, expanding to include not just women of color, but performers of color more broadly, emphasizing queer and larger bodied people.

The show format is different from most burlesque shows. Briq says that is intentional. Tipping is fundamental to Shuga Shaq. And there’s no discreet bucket passed around

In between performances, Briq told us that someone messaged her saying they had discovered they were queer by coming to Shuga Shaq—apparently it has happened multiple times. “For those of you who are queer and questioning, welcome to the family after tonight!” Briq laughed.

In our interview, Briq told me she witnesses a lot of transformations at her shows. “I love seeing straight folks in the audience being like, ‘Whoa, okay, that was interesting.



for tips, either. Rather, audience members are encouraged to (and do) ball up their bills and throw them at the performer onstage.

“I feel like people of color—especially artists of color—are never celebrated, whether that be financially or emotionally, in the way that they should be. Shuga Shaq is set up so that people are taught to very, very vigorously celebrate folks of color emotionally and financially,” she said.

“Every single act, you throw money on the stage. You celebrate that person, you let them know that they’re the shit. And if you’re not tipping, then you’re screaming—you gotta be giving something.”

On the recent Sunday I attended, a diverse array of performers were all showered with cash. There was Curllee Q, a Shuga Shaq virgin, whom the crowd went wild for when she took off her bright orange and pink bra, swirling her nipple tassels to “Got to Give It Up.” Saira Barbaric came out to a twangy tune that immediately morphed into a raunchy, banging Megan Thee Stallion track. Choreographer Randy Ford also performed a sexy number to Megan’s “Big Ole Freak” in a tight pink onesie. And Siren stripped while suspended from a hoop. It was wild.

I wasn’t expecting that.’ They’re not mad, they’re enlightened and they’re excited,” she said.

Although straight people and white people are welcome to come to Shuga Shaq, Briq is quick to remind everyone that the show is a space to center and uplift communities and performers of color, and white people need to be chill with that.

“My goal always is to stimulate and then educate, because I believe that people are more open and willing to hear what you have to say after you’ve stimulated them a little bit,” Briq told me.

At one point during the performance, Briq sat on a chair onstage and asked if there were any cisgender white men in the room. Three raised their hands. She beckoned two of them to come and help her out of her boots, sending them away as soon as they accomplished what she needed from them. It’s a Shuga Shaq tradition to put white cis men to work, “‘cause you know, reparations.” I could get behind it.

Briq is also the organizer behind a new gathering called Quink Social Club, a

kink-friendly social exclusively for people of color. In many communities of color, there’s an idea that kink and fetishes are more in the domain of white people. Or perhaps they’ve encountered really racist play dynamics that white people justify as kink or fantasy.

“A fantasy can be racist, a fetish can be based in racism—it can all be racist,” Briq clarified. “So it was really important to me to have a space where we all could learn and discover and play with one another outside of the white gaze. Because it’s not white shit. People think it’s white shit because there are so many white people on the scene, but it’s not—it’s for us, it’s about us, it’s ours.”

Briq believes that kink can be a way to heal for a lot of folks, and she wanted to create a space where that was possible. Quink is a kink play party, but an actual party too—with dancing, music, demonstrations, and educational presentations. The first Quink occurred back in February. The second event was earlier this month and focused on kink and sex as an HIV-positive person, with HIV-positive presenters.

“We are a community with positive folks, and they are kinky and sexy, too. So hell yeah we’re gonna celebrate that, and learn about that, and roll with that,” she said. “It’s important for me—for us—to learn how to love and fuck one another and love ourselves.”

Back at Shuga Shaq, Sin de la Rosa was hosting the raffle while our hostess got ready for her lap dance. Ticket holders had the chance to win a pair of plus-size crotchless panties, a sexy Harley Quinn outfit, a vintage *Playboy* with Anna Nicole Smith on the cover, and, most importantly, \$25 off a lap dance by Briq.

When the bidding began for the lap dance, Briq came back out in a sheer red lace top, glittery pasties, a so-mini-its-barely-there leather skirt, and sky-high heels. Audience members bid while she slowly walked around where we were sitting, sensually perching on the couch arms, preening, rubbing shoulders, seducing.

Three people collectively won the bidding, raising more than \$600. With the winners sitting in chairs on the stage and the rest of the crowd throwing cash at her, Briq proceeded to give the most incredible collective lap dance I’ve ever seen to Lil Ru’s “The Nasty Song” and Beyoncé’s “Blow.” (Note: I’ve really only seen lap dances in movies, and this honestly took the cake.) Crowd members started to stand up to get a better look, taking notes.

Afterward, each of the recipients looked dazed, like they’d glimpsed something divine. And they had. It was by far the most spectacular part of the night.

But there was a lot of healing and sexiness and learning at Shuga Shaq. It felt like a space of possibility, bringing together acts in ways I hadn’t witnessed before. I left with a better understanding of the connection between my sex brain and my desire to throw all the cash I had at a twerking performer in front me. I left feeling seen.

“I’m really committed to my healing through intimacy, and I’m really committed to the healing of others through intimacy. I think that it’s a beautiful avenue to gain some healing,” Briq said. “Sex work is healing work.” ■



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Bobby Higley turns anxiety, depression, and PTSD into comedy gold.

Razzle-Dazzle Gut Punch

Meet Bobby Higley, an ex-Mormon and one of Seattle's best and dirtiest comics.

BY DAVE SEGAL

PHOTOS BY RACHEL LAURENDEAU

Growing up in a Mormon family in Utah and Idaho, thin white androgynous Bobby Higley must have stuck out like '70s-era David Bowie at a hardcore-punk gig. She has turned the pain of being bullied in school and misunderstood at home into one of the raunchiest and funniest acts on Seattle's comedy stages.

Higley, who is nonbinary and uses she/her and he/him interchangeably, moved to Seattle from Idaho at 18, after a "difficult, complicated" upbringing filled with intolerance and bullying. The family situation

"There's almost no motivation for me... to write a Trump joke," Higley says.

has improved, though, and Higley's younger sister is her most ardent fan. One of Higley's most memorable jokes revolves around her grandfather telling Higley that she was dead to him after she came out.

Unsurprisingly, all this led to depression, which resulted in Higley developing a viciously defensive posture. "I was smart enough to say that thing that was just hurtful enough to really hurt you," Higley says. "And so people left me alone. When I came out, my demeanor changed. I didn't feel the need to

be so mean or sad anymore. But I had already kind of burned all of my bridges."

Now almost 26, the self-described "gutter twink" has been engaged in Seattle's comedy scene since 2015. She runs the all-ages Sacrificial Tofu nights at Americana (where she bartends), the Fuck Yeah Bingo events at Highline, and the Safeword monthly at Kremwerk with Claire Webber. And she makes regular spectacular appearances at Jai Thai's Comedy on Broadway open mics. She has a busy Pride Month, too, culminating in Five Senses Reeling's Stand Up for Pride show on Thursday, June 27, at SIFF Cinema Egyptian.

"I describe myself as Seattle's premier sad, gay, ex-Mormon comic," Higley says. "I have a couple of really cutesy jokes that are actually police-brutality jokes at the end. And you don't realize until we get there. Then once you do, you're like, 'Oh, god.' I've always described my approach as 'razzle-dazzle gut punch.'"

Elaborating on her dark subject matter, Higley says, "The rule of threes is important in comedy, so that last part is where I'm grinning from ear to ear as I say something so fucked up, because you trusted me on step one and step two."

It's a delicate tightrope walk, these abuse jokes, and Higley masters them with panache—and feels empowered while doing so. "For a long time, I thought I would never talk about any of that onstage. It was something that I would tell my partners six months into

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dating them, in hushed whispers, crying in the middle of the night.”

Turning anxiety, depression, and PTSD into comedy gold has been Higley’s coping mechanism, and few in town are better at it. Beyond those traumas, though, Higley also converted suicidal thoughts after having \$120,000 worth of *Magic: The Gathering* cards stolen into a cathartic routine that took the sting out of losing that obsession.

Higley recalls another pivotal moment: “I recently told this bit onstage that I never thought I’d talk about, which was how I have a hemorrhoid tag, which is a scar you can get on your buttock. I was doing a stripping show, and I thought, ‘Oh god, I’m super-insecure about this.’ But then I was like, ‘That’s the whole point.’ So I ended up showing an audience of 120 people my asshole to “Ave Maria” at this beautiful place called Comic Strip in Portland, while the host came out and said, ‘Shame, shame.’ But, yeah, comedy is how I cliff-jump off of things that are too hard for me to do emotionally.”

All of this is very well, but does Higley have any Trump jokes in her repertoire? Um, no. Seriously, how do you outdo a figure whose every utterance and action are a tragicomic farce of world-historical proportions?

But don’t mistake Higley’s lack of political material for apathy. She has too much at stake to *not* care, but the subject just doesn’t inspire her.

Higley notes that fellow Seattle comic Derek Sheen contextualized it better than most when he said, “It’s impossible to write a current Trump joke, because every day he does something else that is fucking inane or stupid. And then everybody else is like, ‘Oh yeah, that was relevant yesterday, but now there’s this new current event.’”

Higley also points out that late-night shows with teams of writers focus on current events and Trump every day, as well as citing Wanda Sykes’s new Trump-centric Netflix special, *Not Normal*.

“Those things are out there, and so, for a younger comedian, there’s almost no moti-

vation for me financially or as far as my craft goes to write a Trump joke,” Higley says. “Because in order to keep it current, I would have to make adjustments, and then at the same time a famous comedian could write that same joke in parallel thinking, and you can’t argue which came first. It doesn’t matter which came first—they have it on fucking Netflix. So it’s very hard to write Trump jokes, because oftentimes it’s already been written, and it was written better than you and faster, and it was nationally televised.”

And besides, Higley argues, most Trump jokes aren’t that funny. “I find it so frustrating that so many people focus on his appearance. Like, yeah, you don’t want to fuck him. That’s awesome. It doesn’t matter. That’s not why he’s a bad president. He’s a bad president, partially, because he’s very insecure. And I think that he reads these comments, he sees these horrible memes of himself, and then he’s like: ‘You know what? Fuck California. We’re going to start drilling in national parks there.’ He seems so petty and so small that I don’t understand why so many of the intellectuals are poking fun at his body. Hitler probably had very similar motivations, like too much physical rejection, you know? And then it just went off the fucking wall.”

So don’t expect to see Higley aspiring to ghostwrite Trevor Noah’s quips on *The Daily Show*. However, she does have goals to make Safeword a nationally touring show and bring it to festivals with Webber, whom she calls a “genius.”

Higley also wants to get into voice acting, regular acting, and television writing. But first she’s doing a tour of Southern states this summer, including a stop in South Carolina, where her ex, who was 18 years older, lives. Higley’s billing it as the Spite Tour, because this ex, who got her “into everything crazy that I’ve ever done,” had asked her, “Do you want to be a 40-year-old waiter?”

The dismissive remark “cracked” Higley’s heart and spurred her to plunge into comedy. The ex’s favorite comic, Jenn Snyder, is opening, so he’ll likely be there. Bet on Higley literally having the last laugh. ■

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RACHELLE ABELLAR

Kiss the Girl

Growing up a lesbian in the age of Trump.

BY SAMANTHA PLANK

As a Gen-Z kid, I grew up watching Disney princess films, and what I saw were princesses with tiny waists that could fit between their eyes, and beautiful voices, and princes to love. So I thought that's how I'd have to live one day. I would have to have a tiny waist, a beautiful voice, and a man—otherwise my life would be meaningless. I wouldn't have a happy ending like other girls.

I wanted to be a princess, but more than that I wanted to be a mom. If I didn't get to be a mom, I wouldn't get to have my "ending." The confusing part about this was that I had never met any boys who were worthy.

In middle school, I would watch other girls tie up their hair in ponytails, gazing for minutes on end until they finished, wondering how they made themselves so perfect, wondering how they were so beautiful. I thought this must have been "natural" (it never occurred to me I wasn't straight), because women were supposed to care for each other.

I didn't know I could marry a woman. How should I have known that? The Supreme Court hadn't yet made that legal. I didn't know that I could have children with a woman. Who was going to tell me this? I didn't know that a child could have two moms. If I had known that, my childhood would have been different.

The Supreme Court decision had a profound effect on me, because it changed what I thought was possible. I was 17 years old when gay marriage became legal. A year later, when Trump was elected, I was a student at Bellevue College. I had shoulder length hair, with bangs that were practically straight across my forehead (straighter than I would ever be). I wore black eyeliner every day and orange and pink hair clips.

I went to school on that horrible November morning early for class. I heard somebody say the election wasn't a big deal. It was a big deal, but for all the wrong reasons. This was a man who thought it was funny to grab a woman without an enthusiastic "yes,"

let alone a "yes" at all.

What scares me most about Trump is the number of people who voted for him, the number of people who think it doesn't matter that our president assaults women. I voted for Hillary Clinton, not because I liked her particularly—she was a privileged white woman in power who never fully came across as genuine—but at least she didn't make jokes about assaulting people.

By then I had long since realized that Disney movies are imaginary worlds and the future was going to look nothing like them. Unfortunately for me and countless other girls, we are not princesses and we are not cartoons. We are civilians living under the

Unfortunately,
we're not cartoon
princesses. We're
civilians living under
the power of a creep.

power of a creep. Melania's waist may fit between her eyes, but she and *The Little Mermaid* don't have anything else in common.

The election of 2016 starkly illustrated who would and wouldn't support me as I make my way in the world. It wouldn't be the old guy with the MAGA car decal, nor would it be our neighbors who voted for Trump because they thought he'd find some way to get rid of gay marriage (after finding this out, we hung up a rainbow flag on the side of the house—I love you, Mom and Dad!). Trump's victory was a reminder that there are a lot of different worlds within this world and I have to find my own community. I have to search them out.

Thankfully, I don't live under the sea. Thankfully, I live in a progressive city. I haven't found my princess yet, but I know she's out there, somewhere in the future. Just like the first female president. ■

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“Why the Fuck Are You Complaining?”

An older generation’s perspective on being queer in the age of Trump.

BY KATIE HERZOG

Jeffrey Robert gets why queer people are pissed off. He’s pissed off, too. Despite promising on the campaign trail to support the LGBTQ community, Donald Trump quickly proved, once again, that campaign slogans are nothing but empty.

This didn’t exactly come as a shock: Trump may be a gold-plated libertine in his own life, but his Electoral College victory was delivered in no small part by the religious right, and so, once in power, he started pandering to his base. From the trans military ban to rolling back Obama-era protection for LGBTQ people in the workplace to nominating Supreme Court justices with a history of hostility to gay rights, he hasn’t been good for gay people—unless, of course, those gay people happen to be in the very top tax bracket.

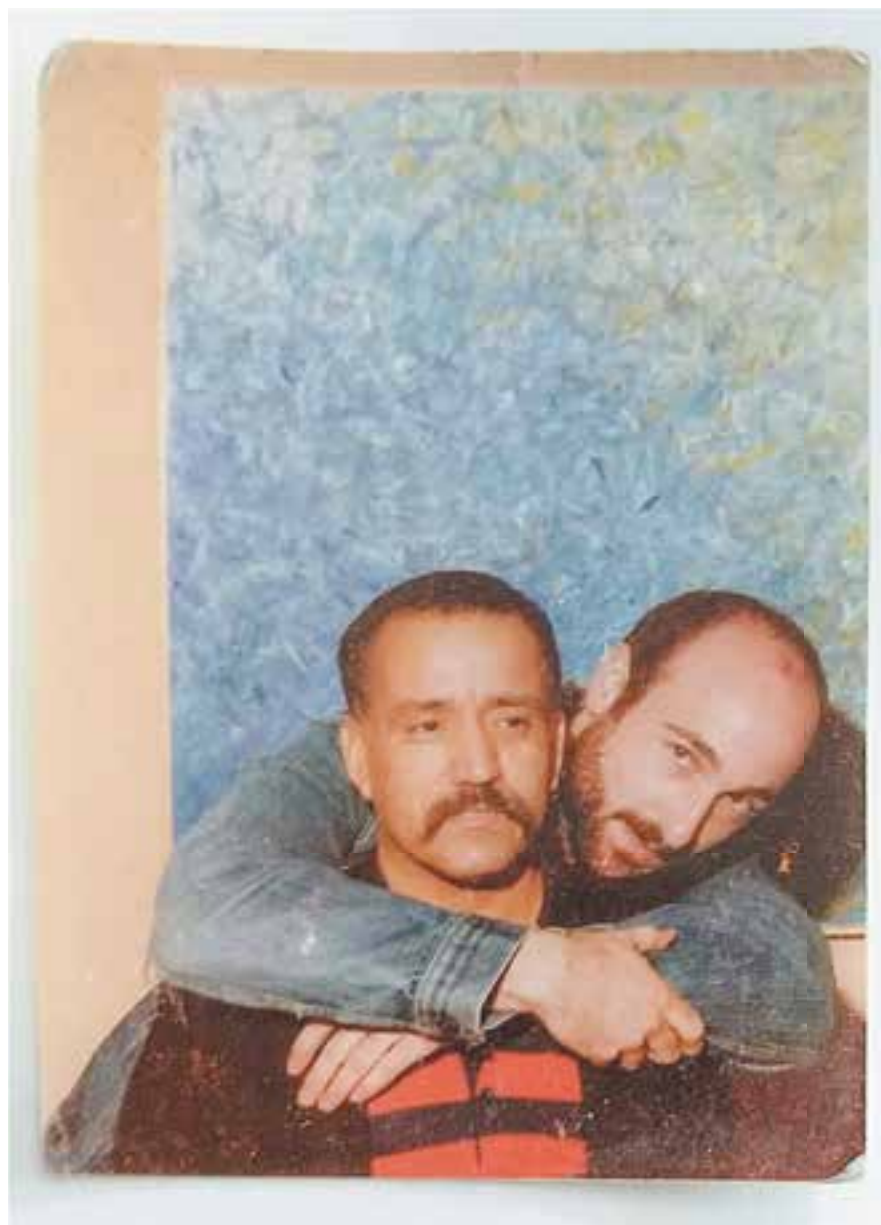
And yet, even with all this—all the bigoted rhetoric coming out of the White House, all the lies and misinformation and shrieks of “FAKE NEWS” and “LOCK HER UP”—for gay people of a certain age, life, even under Trump, has never been better, because life before was so very much worse.

Jeffrey, a Seattle-based humorist, artist, and storyteller who has performed across the country, came out for the first time at age 14. It was Sacramento, 1973, and he and his best friend confessed to each other that they both liked boys. They didn’t tell anyone else, and how could they? Stonewall had happened less than five years before, and the gay liberation movement was still nascent. PFLAG had just been founded, and gay-straight alliances were still years away. He and his friend swore not to tell anyone else.

His secret didn’t last long. Three years later, Jeffrey came out to everyone else. The reaction was mixed. “I had some friends who were supportive,” he told me. “My mother cried. My father said something angry. It was not comfortable, not comfortable at all.”

Over time, however, his parents came to terms with who their son was, in no small part because they easily connected with his first partner, a charming schoolteacher from Laredo, Texas, named Amador. “They just loved Amador,” Jeffrey says. “That really helped.”

Jeffrey and Amador met at a gay bar. Jeffrey was underage and Amador was older, but at the time this was nothing to be scandalized about. It was common for older and younger men to get together. Normal. “That’s just the way it was,” Jeffrey said. “I moved in with him from my parents’ house, and we had a very nice life together.” He describes Amador as funny and silly and campy, he says Amador was very fond of telling a story about going to Europe and picking up all the men in Rome. “He really loved hamburgers and steak and blond boys,” Jeffrey says.



COURTESY OF JEFFREY ROBERT

Jeffrey (in denim) and Amador, in front of one of Jeffrey’s paintings from college. “It was taken a year or so before he died,” Jeffrey remembers. “It is a small photo I carried in my wallet for decades after his death. It got a little ragged.”

The couple were together for almost a decade. Their relationship was open: “Everyone’s was. It wasn’t even a discussion.” But in many ways, they had a traditional relationship. They would go to Jeffrey’s par-

After Amador’s death, his family erased Jeffrey from his obituary and also took the house and cars.

ents’ house every weekend to play Scrabble or Trivial Pursuit, and they assumed that they’d have many decades to get old and boring together.

Then people started getting sick. “It felt

like the children’s story “Pinocchio,” when the boys go to the land where everything is fun and amazing, but if you stay there too long you turn into a donkey,” Jeffrey says. “It felt like it was kind of that thing, where you are in this magical land, and all of a sudden this evil creeps in.”

The evil, of course, was AIDS.

“It was horrible,” he continues. “Horrible. And it had been so good. I loved the gay community. I loved the culture. I loved the history. I gathered all the history I could from the generations before me. I loved the neighborhoods we lived in. I loved the parties we had. I loved the bars we went to. I loved the sex. I loved the sex clubs. I loved all of that—and then it was all over.”

AIDS first arrived in the United States in the 1960s and ’70s, but it wasn’t definitively identified as a sexually transmitted infection until well into the 1980s. When the

epidemic first emerged, people thought it was a kind of gay cancer or was connected to poppers, a recreational drug common in the gay male community. “Nobody knew what was happening,” Jeffrey says. “There was this weird thing spreading through the gay community. People were getting very sick, and they couldn’t identify why. It was terrifying, like a monster movie. We didn’t even know what it was called, much less what caused it. We just had no idea.”

Jeffrey doesn’t know how many of his friends and acquaintances died from AIDS in those years. “It wasn’t just friends,” he says. “It was enemies. It was people I knew from bars. It was people I would pass on the street. There was a San Francisco paper called the *Bay Area Reporter*, and the obituaries started at like half a page, then it became a page, and then it was two pages, and then it was page after page after page. I’d go through there and I’d recognize so many people.”

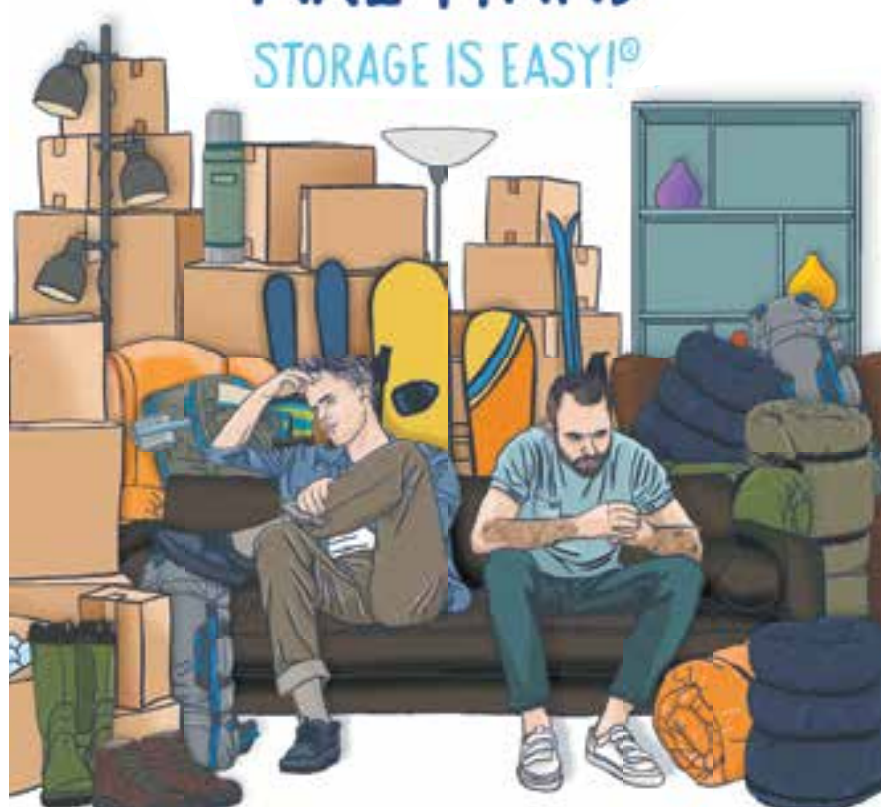
During the 1980s, tens of thousands of people, most of them gay men, died of AIDS in the United States. Including Amador, who died at 12:30 in the morning on May 6, 1987. “Cinco de Mayo had been a very big day for him,” Jeffrey says. “At one point, he was the head of the Association of Mexican American Educators, and he was very connected in that world. We liked to say that he stuck around for one more Cinco de Mayo.”

After Amador’s death, his family erased Jeffrey from his obituary and then fought Jeffrey in court over his estate. They tried to convince a judge that the men hadn’t been partners and that Jeffrey was a straight man just going after Amador’s money. It worked. The family got the house and the cars and everything Jeffrey and Amador had owned together. “It was so fucked up,” Jeffrey says, shaking his head. “So fucked up.”

Not long after Amador died, Jeffrey moved to Seattle. Once here, he made new friends—some of whom later died of AIDS as well—and later met a new man, Rodney, through the classified ads in this very paper. “Rodney had just gotten into town, and he picked up a *Stranger* at Pagliacci Pizza on the Ave. He circled a couple of ads, including mine. He circled another one that was by a guy that I’d actually gone out with—and, I’ll tell you what, I saved him a massive headache,” Jeffrey said, laughing. “That was one of the *worst* dates I ever went on. It was just awful. But it worked out with us.”

Life moved on. The two men moved in together, fostered and then adopted a son, and in 2004, when Multnomah County in Oregon briefly legalized same-sex marriage, they drove to Portland and got married at the courthouse. The next weekend, they had a little reception and potluck at their home in Seattle.

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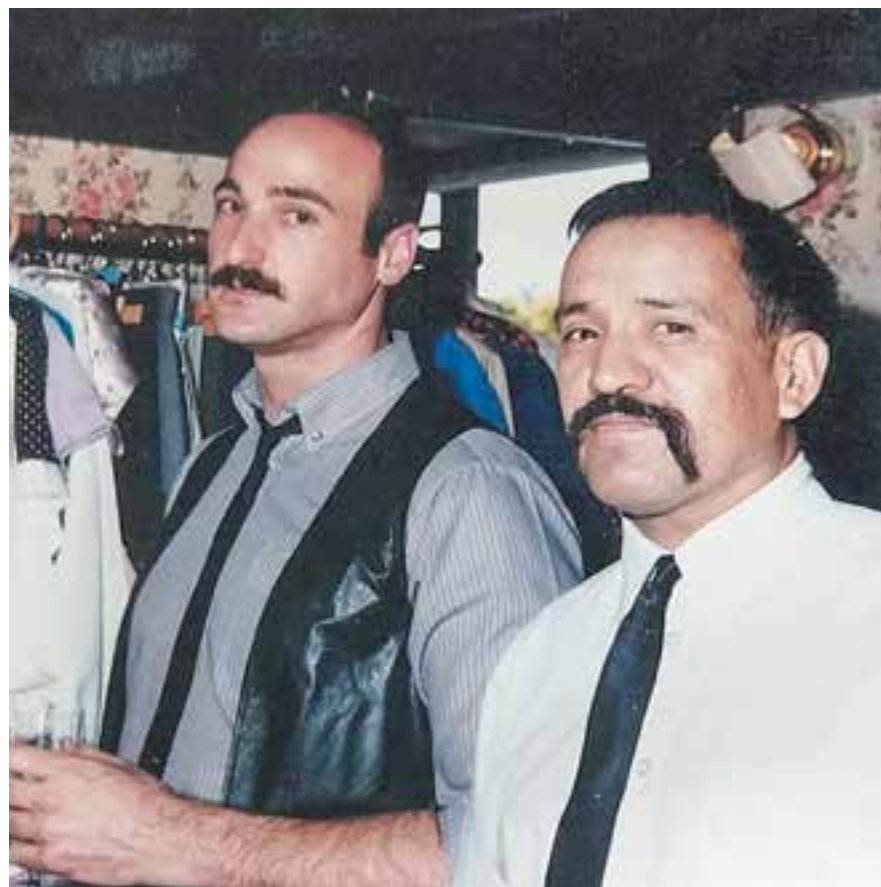
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COURTESY OF JEFFREY ROBERT

"He really loved hamburgers and steak and blond boys," Jeffrey says of Amador.

Things were good, and it felt like the world was finally making some progress. Then, about a year later, Jeffrey and Rodney, along with around 3,000 other couples, received a letter informing them that their marriage had been nullified after voters in Oregon, and then the state supreme court, decided that marriage could only be between a man and a woman.

"I don't think I've ever been so angry in my life, holding that piece of paper that said our marriage was nullified," Jeffrey says.

"The angry part of me is angry they don't get it, but the other part of me is like thank god they don't get it."

"How dare they? It was just *wrong*. *Wrong*. I was surprised at how much it angered me."

Ten years later, when the US Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage for good (or at least for now), Jeffrey and Rodney got married for a second time. But all these experiences—having a court invalidate his relationships not once but twice, surviving the AIDS crisis, losing the first man he'd really loved, seeing countless friends and lovers get thinner and thinner before they just disappeared—have given him a vastly different perspective on what is happening right now in American life than many younger queer people, who feel hurt and oppressed when someone uses the wrong pronoun or when a straight actor plays someone gay.

"The angry part of me is angry because they don't get it, but the other part of me is like thank god they don't get it. Thank god they don't have to live through this. Thank god they will never know what it's like. You can't know what it was like unless you were there, and they will never know that. That is something I should be happy about and celebrate, the fact that they don't know what

it was like. But the fact that they don't seem to care to find out, and then they want to tell you how bad their lives are, that is really difficult to deal with. I want to be the sweet older person, but inside it's like, 'Why the fuck are you complaining? Do you know how lucky you are?'"

For Jeffrey and many others like him, they see a failure on the part of many (if not most) younger queers to recognize what, exactly, men and women just a couple of generations ago went through. This is hardly limited to gay rights. As much as there's a generational divide between old gays and young queers, there's a generational divide between old straights and young straights, too. Harvard psychologist Steven Pinker told me this phenomenon could be called "generational amnesia."

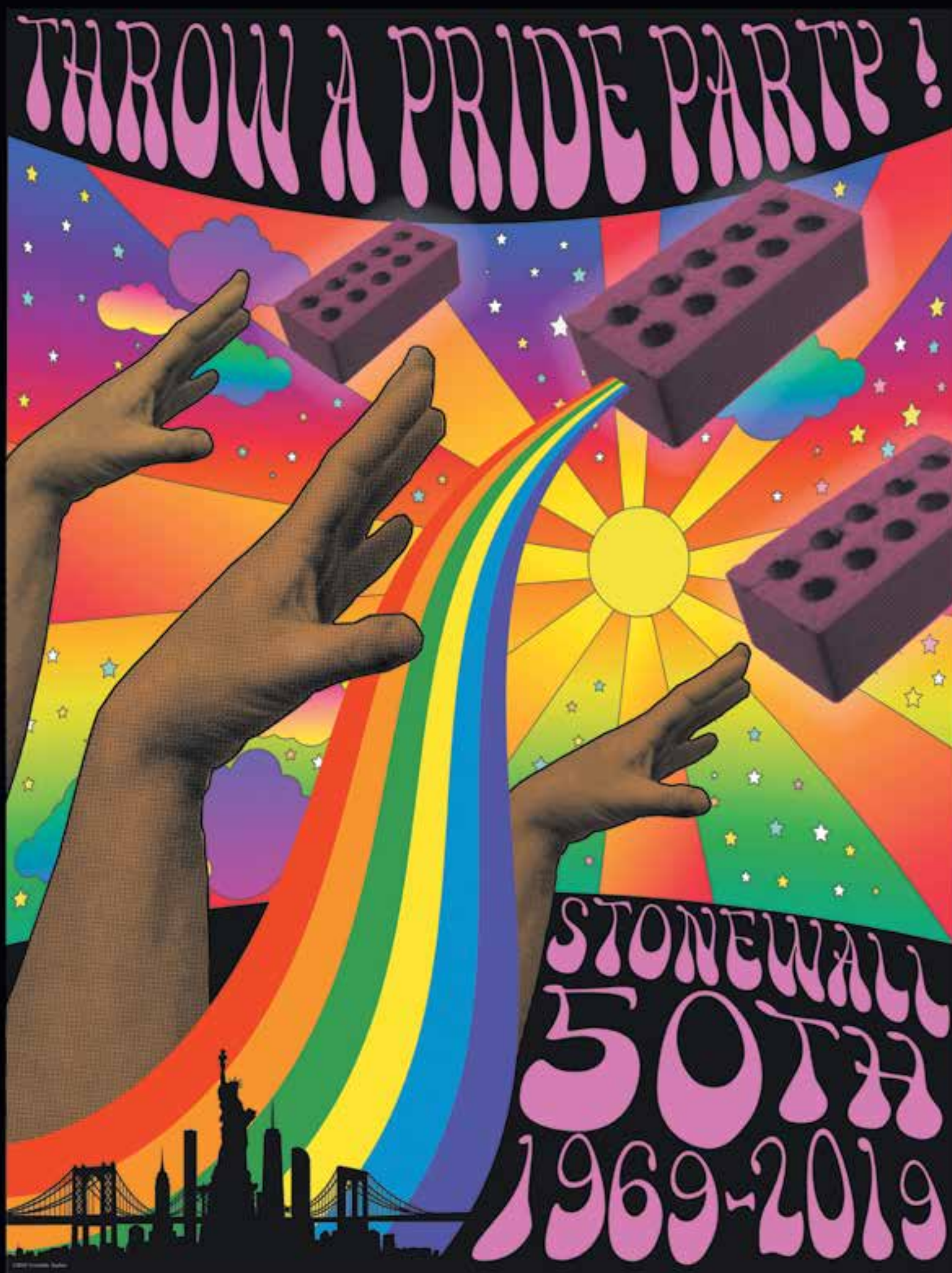
Jonathan Haidt, a social psychologist at NYU, said that while this isn't exactly new, social media exacerbates this issue. "Activists are now deluged with posts about violations of their values," Haidt told me. "Since there will always be hundreds of such cases every day, in a country with 350 million people, it is hard to judge rates and trends. Even if by some objective measure, offenses were down by 95 percent, the remaining 5 percent is now so much more visible, people who have only known social media have only known a deluge of outrage stories."

And there is, to be sure, plenty to be outraged about. Today's students are saddled with so much debt that many will never get out from under it. Housing keeps getting more expensive while wages run flat. The Trump administration's actions on the southern border have created a humanitarian crisis. The planet is burning while people in charge stand idly by. Gay and trans rights in other parts of the world just don't exist. But when it comes to gay rights in the US, Jeffrey says, "we've made so much progress. So much. I really appreciate youth, and I think the world is in their hands now. But life is better now than it's ever been, at least for gay people. I really wish more young people could see that." ■

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Trump's Gay Adversary

Thoughts on the gay man running for the Democratic nomination.

BY BLAIR STENVICK

I recently spent a weekend in West Lafayette, Indiana, watching my brother-in-law graduate from Purdue University. During the ceremony, former Indiana governor Mitch Daniels delivered a condescending, classless speech mocking students at other schools for being “snowflakes” who suffered PTSD and dared to seek counseling after Donald Trump’s election.

We sped out of town so quickly afterward that my brother-in-law forgot his diploma.

Two hours of flat, God-fearing freeway away from West Lafayette is a little town called South Bend, home to the University of Notre Dame and Mayor Pete Buttigieg. As we traversed the Indiana landscape, I wondered what it was like for the 37-year-old presidential hopeful to grow up there.

If I’m honest, I’ve been thinking a lot about Buttigieg. Though I don’t currently plan to vote for him in the primary, he’s the first openly gay man to seek the presidency, and that certainly feels like it ought to mean something. His out-of-nowhere ascent in the polls caught me off guard the same way the Supreme Court gay-marriage ruling did

by having a gay man on the 2020 ticket.

However. Every time I get to this point in the mental argument I have with myself about him, I imagine growing up somewhere in the anonymous corn fields stretching across state lines in the middle of the coun-



SCOTT OLSEN/GETTY IMAGES

Harvard grad and military vet Pete Buttigieg (left) kisses his husband, Chasten.

try. I imagine being a child in Alabama, where broadcasters recently declined to air an episode of the children’s TV show *Arthur* because it featured a gay wedding.

Hell, I imagine my own experience growing up on the West Coast. I knew I was queer before I ever heard the word, and the first 100 or so times I did hear it, it was always in a negative context, so I learned to forget my own identity until I left for college.

That’s the part of me, I suppose, that is enamored with the idea of President Buttigieg. When Buttigieg kissed his husband, Chasten, after announcing his candidacy, the networks didn’t have much choice but to air it. When a gay man running for president graduated from Harvard, served eight years in the US Navy Reserve, and can speak eight languages, he becomes harder to laugh at. It would be stupid to deem Buttigieg’s candidacy the end of homophobia. (Remember the promise of a post-racial society after Barack Obama won? How’s that going?) But that doesn’t mean his presence in the race isn’t doing real good for a lot of confused queer kids out there.

Buttigieg didn’t come out until 2015, just days before the Supreme Court marriage ruling. I wonder what calculations went into that choice, and how he felt afterward. Did he feel free, knowing he had one less secret to hide? Or did he feel burdened, knowing his eventual political ascent would always be weighted by this distinction of being the first?

My guess: He felt both. To be queer in America in 2019 is to swim in a sea of contradictions and impossible arguments—like the one I have with myself about Pete Buttigieg. ■

When he kissed his husband after his big announcement, the networks had no choice but to air it.

in 2015. I grew up going to Catholic school, and such an upbringing can make you pessimistic about how much the rest of the world cares about your queer existence. I didn’t think a viable gay candidate (or marriage equality) was something I could hope for until much later in life.

And yet here I am in 2019, married to my exceptional wife and not quite sure what to make of Mayor Pete. The internet is already filling up with think pieces, some much more nuanced than others, about how Buttigieg isn’t queer enough, isn’t progressive enough, isn’t worth thinking about any more than Beto O’Rourke. I can’t say I resent this take—there are so many pressing problems in the post-Trump hellscape we find ourselves inhabiting that I don’t see getting better simply

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Olympia's First Queer State Senator

Emily Randall spent this year's legislative session fighting for constituents and changing perceptions.

BY JASMYNE KEIMIG

Senator Emily Randall has to walk past 63 years of history to get to her office in the Washington State Capitol. The hallway that winds its way to Randall's area is lined with photos of former Washington legislative assemblies, from 1889 to where her door stops at 1952. The majority of the senators are (obviously) white, straight, wealthy, and male, but I notice there's at least some diversity in their style: ridiculous mustaches in the late 19th century, slick hair in the 1920s, the crisp suits of the 1950s.

Randall's office itself reflects a different history. The bookshelf of the senator representing the state's 26th District, which covers the southeastern swath of the Kitsap Peninsula, is lined with books like Audre Lorde's *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* and Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*. There's a bright neon poster of a quote by feminist scholar bell hooks: "The practice of love is the most powerful antidote to the politics of domination." And there are fruit snacks on the front desk. Randall's office seems to physically embody a change to the state legislature—a step forward, perhaps.

Randall's legislative assistant, Sarah Myers, told me: "Anytime I'm like, 'Oh, this is how we do things,' she always has an 'Okay, so why do we do these things?' which is really fun." This year was Myers's third session at the Capitol, having worked for Senator Christine Rolfes and Senator Kevin Ranker previously.

"That's why she decided to bring me on board," continued Myers, who is sometimes referred to as "Google" by other Randall staffers because of her deep knowledge of how things run in Olympia. "I've been in different offices, and she was like, 'I want someone who knows what's going on but will join me in pushing back where we can and changing things that we need to.'"

Sometimes "changing things that we need to" involves bringing lawn chairs to the Capitol. The senator semi-famously brought lawn chairs and set them out underneath the blossoming cherry trees that surround the Legislative Building, thinking stressed-out legislators and aides could enjoy the blooms. The chairs were promptly confiscated by the grounds staff.

Randall is the first openly queer woman to be elected to the state senate. She won the purplish 26th District in a nail-biter election: After a manual recount in December 2018, just 102 votes separated Randall and her opponent, the conservative Christian AM radio host, real-estate agent, and general bag of hot air Marty McClendon, a Republican with a long history of losing. Randall ran on issues like access to health care and making higher education affordable to ev-



COURTESY OF SENATOR RANDALL

Senator Emily Randall prefers the term "queer" over the word "bisexual."

everyone. And it worked.

Her win was one of the many victories in state elections last year that sent progressive and diverse first-time candidates to the state senate, lawmakers such as Senators Mona Das, Joe Nguyen, and Claire Wilson. Randall calls working with this cohort of newbies "the best part of the job." They have constant text chains and meet up roughly every Thursday to unwind and offload the stresses involved in being a minority in government.

"When [the Legislative Building] was built, it was not built expecting people who come from families like mine and Joe's and Mona's, that we would work in those halls," Randall told me recently over the phone. I couldn't help but think of the long line of senator portraits I had to pass to get to her office. "It's inspiring that we now serve in the most diverse legislature in the state's history, that this new chapter under the dome has been opened."

She admits that it still feels very strange to be talking about hunger and affordability issues (people unable to pay their rent or afford mounting medical bills) in this very fancy and impressive building in Olympia. "The disparity between the gilded dome and what it's like to be a working-class person struggling to make it in Washington—that's really discordant."

Looking at the Capitol, we are meant to venerate, to be humbled by this monument

to government—there's a reason why the 49 senators and 98 representatives do not congregate in some office park in Tukwila. Every material and architectural design in the Legislative Building is meant to reinforce the importance of the work these citizen legislators do. And also to serve as a reminder of who exactly it was built for.

Randall comes from a long line of veterans and union workers. She was raised in the same Port Orchard home her mother was raised in. After her grandfather served in World War II, her mother's family moved to Washington from Texas in the mid-1950s to work for the Department of Defense at a shipyard in Bremerton.

Her paternal grandfather similarly served in the military (as a Marine in the Korean War) and moved his family to Bremerton after being employed as a sheet metal worker in Utah. Her dad's family is Chicano. She told me he faced a lot of discrimination before moving to the Pacific Northwest.

"He was training people who were promoted over him, and they faced housing discrimination," Randall said. "My grandparents wanted to move out of a community that they felt stifled in because of racial tension, so they moved to Washington State to find a more welcoming community for their family, to raise their kids in. So they moved

to Bremerton in 1967."

Randall lives there now, with her partner.

"It felt like I had been given so much from my grandparents and my parents and my neighbors—financial aid and health care," Randall continued. "So I wanted to give back."

Though Randall won the election, there's a lingering perception that the 26th District is still somewhat conservative and that some of her more progressive values run counter to the wishes of the people she represents. Bremerton is a military stronghold, after all. I asked her if, when she was a progressive candidate holding down several different identities (queer, Latina, millennial, first-generation college graduate), she ever felt like she had to compromise in terms of how progressive she could actually be.

"I think the work of being a legislator is compromising, because we don't share every single value with every single one of our neighbors," she told me. "I think the conception that our district has been more moderate or more conservative was based on years with pretty low turnout. And we saw a huge turnout, some of the highest turnout of any district around the state and our community."

It's true. In the 2018 election for the 26th District senate seat, more than 33,000 ballots were cast in Kitsap County—10,000 more than in the previous election cycle in 2014, where Republican Jan Angel trounced the Democratic opposition by more than 15 points. Randall believes she won because she "spoke to some of their values that had been long ignored."

"Senate Bill 5398 to the front!"

It's still during this year's session (the legislature convenes for only a few months each year, roughly January to April), and I'm standing next to two of Senator Randall's aides in the belly of the Legislative Building. We're outside the governor's quarters, waiting for Jay Inslee's assistant to call two of Randall's bills to be signed into law.

There's a whole mess of people outside the door: politicians, interested parties, legislative aides, anti-vaxxers with their at-risk children in tow. Everything is marble: the floor, the ceiling, the walls, the bathroom doors. Sounds ricochet off the material. It feels tomb-like. Impenetrable. I'm constantly worried I'll slip and chip my front tooth on these squeaky floors designed to remind me of their greatness.

One of the aides, Kali Chargualaf, has a clipboard with a list of bills to be signed by the governor. "Just a couple more," she leans over to tell me.

An hour earlier, I'd been waiting in the Democratic wing of the senate floor, on the plusher and more forgiving dogwood-




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decorated carpeting—a weird contrast against all that marble. It was the cutoff day to pass bills from the opposite house. Senators and aides were running back and forth, talking to each other, waiting around. It was hectic; the feeling was heavy, like everyone was carrying the weight of their constituents.

Randall was at her seat on the senate floor multitasking on two different cell phones, talking into one and texting on the other. The senators were considering and discussing House Bill 1394, concerning community facilities for behavioral health patients, and about to break to go to caucus. She breezed past me, still on the phone—“I’ve got to talk to some doctors!”—and walked into the caucus room.

Randall has spent a lot of her career working in health care. She cites her time and involvement in queer organizing at Wellesley College (we are both alumnae, although we did not attend the school at the same time) as foundational to her approach to fighting for health-care access, particularly for the LGBTQ community.

The senator was also shaped by a personal experience—her younger sister, Olivia, was born with microcephaly, a condition where a person’s head is smaller than normal and results in developmental delays. There is no known cure, and doctors had no idea how long Olivia would live.

But the same year her sister was born, the Washington Legislature voted to expand Medicaid, which allowed her family to qualify and get the coverage needed to ensure that Olivia could live a happy life at home. Randall told me that as a little girl, she saw that “government could be a really powerful tool for good in people’s lives.”

“Those are the values that I brought to the legislature,” she said. “That’s who I’m here to fight for—folks who have often been left behind, whose issues are less convenient.”

In her first year, Randall has led the charge on the Pathway to Universal Health Care Bill, a piece of legislation that would study and recommend to the legislature various forms of state-based single-payer health care—the idea being to have a concrete road map to universal health care here in Washington. Despite having bipartisan support, the bill didn’t pass, but its substance was included as a proviso in the budget with funding. A small victory, but something to build off of.

Randall had five bills signed into law. They are on subjects as diverse as outlining a pilot program to provide assistance for homeless college students at community and technical colleges to a bill she sponsored banning discriminatory barriers to reproductive health care based on gender identity.

“I heard such compelling testimony in committee and in conversations with advocates and allies about the reality of trans folks who are denied access to the care that they need, whose insurance claims are denied, whose doctors don’t see them and won’t treat them,” said Randall. “I think it was really important.”

Calling Randall the first openly queer woman to serve in the state senate has been a source of some confusion, as her colleague Senator Claire Wilson is a lesbian. This distinction might feel trivial to some, but it represents a larger cultural divide between generations and identities.

“There has been a lot of education,” Ran-

dall said. “I have colleagues that ask me, ‘What does queer mean?’ So I explain to them that I feel like as we recognize that gender is a spectrum, I don’t identify as bisexual because I think that creates a dichotomy. Queer just feels more reflective of me and my experience and my life.”

Running and legislating as an openly queer person leads to some pretty awkward moments on the floor. For example, when during a committee hearing, Senator Wilson called herself the first openly lesbian woman to be elected to the senate, presiding senator Sam Hunt’s face apparently contorted into a

Being queer “is true for a lot of members of our community—including veterans.”

giant question mark, looking at Randall, who was seated just behind Wilson. *Isn’t there another gay in the room?*

Randall, up right after Wilson, generously clarified queerness to the senators.

“I identify as a queer woman,” Randall explained, “which means that while I have been in a very long relationship with my partner, Alison, should I be separated and get married again, there’s no limit to the gender of the person that I might be in another relationship with.”

I feel for Randall. It’s like having to explain to your grandpa’s golfing buddy who you like to bone and why. It’s a constant coming out and explaining of self that straight people aren’t burdened with. For her part, Randall handled it all with grace, managing to loop the discussion back to the importance of the bill she was there to talk about. Being queer is “true for a lot of members of our community—including our veterans,” she concluded in her speech to Hunt.

“Being asked about your identity and being asked to explain yourself can be off-putting to some people,” said Senator Marko Liias, who serves on the higher education committee and is a member of the LGBTQ Caucus along with Randall. During Randall’s first couple of weeks in the legislature, she had a dozen conversations with colleagues—Democrats and Republicans alike—about what queer means.

“I think she approached it with a real ‘teachable moment’ attitude,” Liias told me. “Like, ‘This is a moment to really educate and help advance our shared mission of a more equitable and shared society,’ which I thought was really powerful.”

Next year, which will have a 60-day legislative cycle (because it’s not a budget year), Randall plans to sink her teeth into even more issues: fighting for the new ferries that her district needs, making improvements to Washington’s health-care system, and working toward universal and more affordable health care coverage, especially for women and the LGBTQ community.

“I feel proud of the accomplishments we’ve made and, like any young, overachieving woman, I’m creating a longer and longer list of things that I’m going to do better next year,” she said with a serious laugh. “Because this is not a one-time shot, this is an ongoing commitment to making sure that everyday people have a voice for them.” ■



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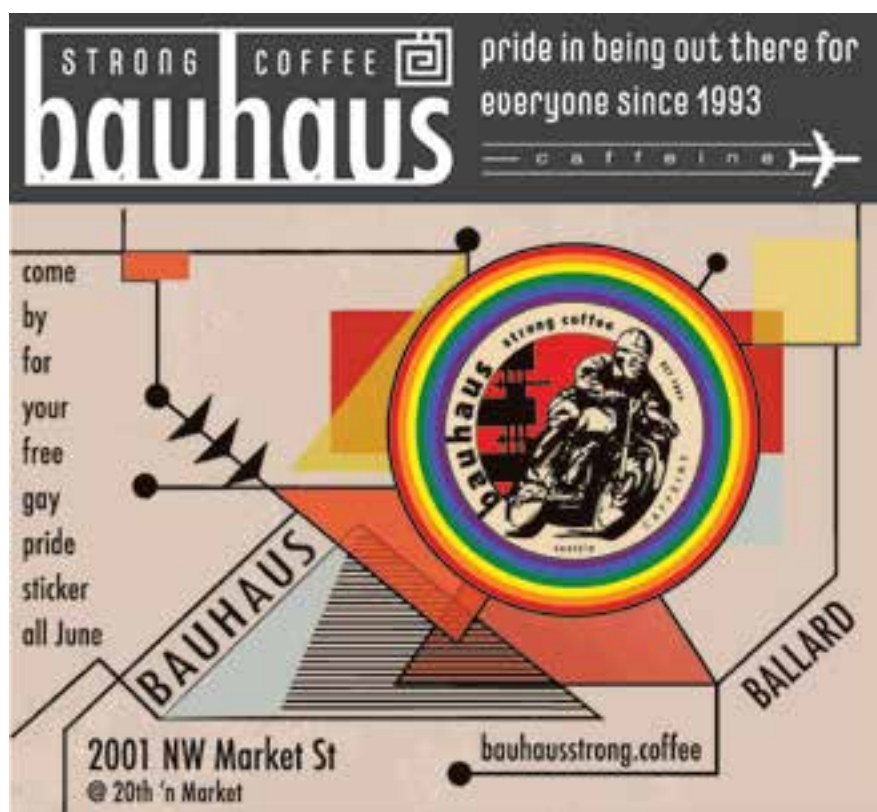
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Cruel and Wrong

Trump's transgender military ban will have disastrous effects on service members.

BY LANCE GARLAND

Imagine enlisting in the military. The night before you're sent to boot camp, you sit in a hotel room, alone, and it hits you: You're leaving everything behind. It's unclear when, or if, you'll see your mother, your father, or your siblings again. The friendships you have will never be the same. You've signed a multiyear contract relinquishing control of your life to the government. There's no going back.

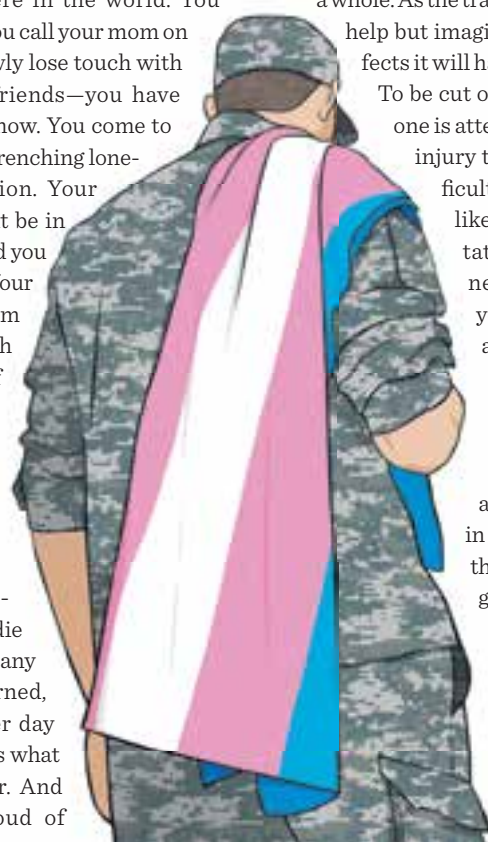
I know what this is like because I've done it.

They fly you to the city of some military base and drop you off by bus at the entrance. The screaming begins instantaneously. Your only option is to absorb it without response. They take your clothes. They shave your head. They herd you around like cattle and train you to be obedient. You acquiesce.

Trans soldiers are continuing to serve, in the shadows, without support.

You iron your underwear into tight little envelopes of starched precision. You snap quickly to attention. At boot-camp graduation, you become a real soldier and are afforded a brief respite with family, a great luxury because it's your first chance to wear clothes of your own choice.

After graduation, you are shipped off to specialty training and then assigned a duty station somewhere in the world. You work diligently. You call your mom on Sundays. You slowly lose touch with your childhood friends—you have little in common now. You come to understand gut-wrenching loneliness and isolation. Your duty station might be in a combat zone, and you might see battle. Your new friends, whom you bond with during times of intense stress and the alternating hours of boredom—well, they may get seriously injured, they may die in your presence, or you may die in theirs. As far as any of you are concerned, that's just another day at the office. That's what you signed up for. And you're damn proud of standing guard.



RACHELLE ABELLAR

Now imagine—in addition to all of the above—you're trans. The Trump ban on transgender people in the military, which recently went into effect, is specifically about harming the transgender individuals who selflessly serve our country. Or maybe it's about antagonism toward Barack Obama, who made it clear that transgender soldiers were welcome in our military. Or maybe it's both.

NBC News has called Trump's ban “essentially a ‘don't ask, don't tell’ policy for trans service members.” I served under “don't ask, don't tell,” and I know personally how cruel that policy was. After speaking up about sexual abuse, I found myself essentially on trial for being gay and had to leave the military.

The transgender people who served openly in the military beginning in Obama's second term showed that they were no less capable than anyone else. There's Kristin Beck, who became the first openly trans Navy SEAL; army captain Alivia Stehlik, an infantry officer and graduate of the US Military Academy; army attack helicopter pilot Lindsey Muller; and thousands more. “An estimated 14,700 troops on active duty and in the reserves identify as transgender, but not all seek treatment,” according to news site MilitaryTimes.

My experience during the “don't ask, don't tell” era gives me unwanted insight into how bans like this affect individual service members and those around them. “Don't ask, don't tell” had a lasting influence on my life, and it has informed so many of my decisions and the trajectory of my life as a whole. As the trans ban unfolds, I can't

help but imagine the disastrous effects it will have on human beings.

To be cut off by the very society one is attempting to serve is an injury that is incredibly difficult to recover from. It's like an emotional amputation, something that never fully heals but you learn to live with as best you can.

Meanwhile, with their lives and careers at great peril, transgender soldiers are continuing to serve, in the shadows, without the support of their own government. I can think of no greater quality in a hero than that: selflessness. If there were ever soldiers to go into battle with, these are the ones you want by your side. ■

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The City As I See It

How Capitol Hill has changed, and how the country has changed, in the last 15 years.

BY ADÉ

People often speculate about my place in the queer community. Am I trans? Am I a gay man? Am I a drag queen? Am I an alien? What category do I fall into? I work at Re-bar and Pony, so I get asked these things all the time. Since people constantly press the issue, let me just answer right up front: I fall into the gender nonbinary category. But I don't think it matters what category of queer you fit into. There's still *sooo* much work to be done, and we're going to have to do it together.

I moved to Seattle from Colorado 15 years ago. Not much to say about Denver, where I grew up. It's there. My grandma was an opera singer who gave up her career for marriage and kids. My mother and father were actors and singers who met in an all-black musical production of *The Hobbit*. I was an arty kid who grew up around music, dance, and theater.

I left Colorado because I didn't really see any artistic opportunities there and I had some friends moving to Seattle. The day I arrived, I met a man named David Bickley at Jade Pagoda; he took me to Re-bar and also introduced me to people like Gary Zinter and Rodney Shrader, who were involved in fringe theater. Gary got me cast in a play at Re-bar; it was set in a gay bathhouse in the 1970s and titled *The Ritz*. That was the beginning of my artistic life here.

I don't really consider what I do to be drag. I think of it more like performance art. I'm just Adé. That's my real name. People assume it's something I took on or made up. When I'm not slinging drinks, I'm a singer, actor, musician, model, producer, and curator. Sometimes I do these things in a dress, sometimes not.

Before *The Ritz*, I was singing karaoke around town and working a job at the Walgreens on 15th. I was sharing a studio apartment on 13th and Republican with three friends. I had a gig at a hair salon for a while, but that didn't go so well. This was 2005. It was deep into the George W. Bush administration, and everything was miserable. Of course now, in retrospect, it looks like a walk in the park.

I got a job working the door and bartending at Bus Stop, back when it was on Pine Street. I ran the karaoke there on Sunday nights. Then the grimly gorgeous old tenement that the bar was located in got torn down. I started hosting karaoke nights at the McLeod Residence, a cozy windowless Belltown art gallery and social club. Then *they* closed. I did some catering for Microsoft. I went back to Denver to see if I could make things work there. I turned right around after a month and came back to Seattle.

Seattle has changed enormously since I first arrived. Something that we have to acknowledge is what happens when gay people and artists move into poor neighborhoods and gentrify them. I must also acknowledge that I have benefited from that process: After all, it's what happened to Capitol Hill. This didn't used to be a nightlife district; it used to be



JON PENDLETON

Adé, photographed while tending bar at Pony, is a fixture in the queer nightlife scene.

where cars got fixed or sold. In the early 1990s, there was only one bar in Pike/Pine, and that was the Comet. White Center is seeing this happen now, with the gay bars popping up there. When that occurs, what happens to the people who have already been living there?

It's an old story: people coming here from everywhere and the rent going up and up. It's making it hard to survive in this city, espe-

Hookup apps have changed the scene. You used to have to go out to meet people. Now it's Dial-a-Dick.

cially on Capitol Hill. This is an expensive neighborhood. That said, I can't think of anywhere else in the US I'd move to. I want to stay on the hill. If I left Capitol Hill, it would probably be to move to Mexico City.

It's also getting harder and harder to survive as a queer person of color—a person of color *period*. President Donald Trump is the single biggest reason. It's a very strange time—between the spaces people find each other on social media and the racist cheerleading from the White House, all of a sudden these white-supremacist creeps are coming out that you didn't think really existed.

I haven't experienced Trump-era racism personally, probably because I live on Capitol Hill, but I know it's there. What with all of the things people tell me, and what I see in the news, and what comes out of the president's

mouth. Seattle still feels generally progressive, and that protects me a bit.

Someone recently mentioned Barack Obama to me. All I think when I think of him is: "I miss you!! Come back!! Please come back!!!" I applaud Obama and former attorney general Loretta Lynch for classifying trans bathroom rights as a civil rights issue. Trans rights *are* civil rights. Let us not forget that it was trans women of color who were at the front lines of the Stonewall riots, 50 years ago this month. Without the bravery of Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson and the rest of the patrons of that bar deciding to fight back against the cops, we wouldn't have the Pride movement.

As for Trump, I think he is doing everything he can to undermine the progress Obama made on trans rights, and he will continue to do so. The murder of trans women of color is a common practice. And Trump ain't gonna do anything about it. As an attack survivor, I will always do what I can to fight for trans rights, for the rights of people like me. The United States is a bizarre place to be, and to be from, in 2019: I just want to wake up and have all this have been a fucked-up dream. That's what I want to have happen. But we can't sleep through this. We have to fight.

I'm also going to keep fighting to survive as an artist who works in the nightlife and service industries. I've worked at Re-bar for about 10 years now, and only recently started at Pony, which is kind of a punk pansexual bar during the week. More and more though, the weekends at Pony are overrun with bridge-and-tunnel straight folks: bachelorette parties and the dudes who want to fuck the women who go to them. I don't have anything

against those people, but it's irritating when a queer space is taken over and turned into a circus playground. And you get the feeling these people are slumming. It's a bit insulting.

Then again, queer people don't go out as much now, not like they used to. Hookup apps like Grindr have changed the scene: You used to have to go out to meet people. Now it's just Dial-a-Dick.

It was when I stepped away—that month I went back to Denver—that I truly started to appreciate Seattle. And it was when I returned that I really dove into doing shows. *Capitol Hill High* was a fringe theater soap opera. I did Ian Bell's Brown Derby, where they stage live readings of popular movies. I created a character named Buttry Brown, a former-model-turned-vigilante with a deaf-mute sidekick played by Scott Shoemaker. We developed those characters into a YouTube series. I did cabaret appearances. I was in a band.

What I'm saying is this: If you're an artist, if you're a performer, if you can connect with people, you *can* survive in this city, even if you were not born wealthy. I am proof of that. I feel lucky to say I live here, and I feel lucky to be performing on Pride weekend—shameless plug!—on Sunday, June 30, after the Pride Parade, at Seattle Center's Mural Stage with Jasyon Kochan/Airport.

I will also be bartending and hosting at Pony throughout the rest of the weekend. Even though Jade Pagoda is gone, and Bus Stop is gone, and McLeod Residence is gone, even though so many other things are gone, at least we still have Re-bar and Pony. Appreciate the things you have while you have them. Come say hi. Happy Pride. ■

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Pride Comes to White Center

The unincorporated King County neighborhood's first-ever queer festival was a big gay success.

BY CHASE BURNS

It is a Sunday night, and I'm in a gay bar in White Center for the third night in a row. I'm tired from all the partying, which is why it takes me a second to realize that someone is rubbing my feet.

It is a man I do not know. He asks me a question, but I can't hear him. We are at the Swallow, a nautical-themed gay bar recently opened by Marcus Wilson, the cocreator and former manager of the popular Capitol Hill bar Pony. House and techno music is blasting.

"WHAT?" I yell.

"ARE YOU WEARING CONVERSE?" the stranger yells back.

He's referring to my boots.

"NO. THEY'RE PALLADIUMS," I tell him.

He pauses, mulls over the information, squeezes my boots. It doesn't feel creepy. We're smiling. Everyone in the bar is very nice, and I welcome the interaction, though I am surprised that a stranger has come up to me and not only started talking to me but is actually now rubbing my feet. There is no Seattle Freeze in White Center.

"ARE THEY SMELLY?" he yells.

"MY SHOES?"

"YES. DO YOU WEAR THEM ALL THE TIME? ARE THEY FILTHY?"

I'm confused, and I respond with the truth: "NO. THEY'RE NICE AND CLEAN."

There's a pause, and then he says—well, yells: "YOU KNOW, PEOPLE WOULD PAY YOU FOR A NICE WHIFF OF YOUR DIRTY SHOES."

He winks, gingerly tickles my boot, and leaves.

Only at this late moment—as he's exiting the bar—do I realize the man has a foot fetish. Or a thing for sniffing or licking dirty boots. I sit there, drinking my cheap beer, thinking: *Damn it, I should've said they were sweaty, he would've paid me.*

My boyfriend and I are in White Center for the weekend—we live on Capitol Hill and don't have a car, so we got an Airbnb—to celebrate the neighborhood's first-ever White Center Pride festival.

Wow, I keep thinking to myself. *That nice man was going to give me money to sniff my shoes.* Truly a lovely White Center moment.

Fifty years after Stonewall, White Center got its own Pride festival this year, spanning five days the second weekend of June. While residents will tell you that the unincorporated King County neighborhood, just south of West Seattle and north of Burien, has long been a gay hub, you could say this Pride is a sort of coming out of the closet for the area.

The fest, which started as a conversation over drinks between local residents Matt Maring and Jason Loughridge, quickly evolved into a neighborhood-wide celebration.



STEARKOGRAPHY

A glimpse inside the all-ages Pride Skate Night at Southgate Roller Rink.

"The support of the community has been overwhelming, honestly," Loughridge said. "Probably our only regret is that we couldn't include everyone in the events. Hopefully next year more opportunities will arise. The interest is definitely there."

This year's White Center Pride included a tea dance, an all-ages skating event, an underwear party (not all ages), and a drag

A man I didn't know rubbed my feet. There is no Seattle Freeze in White Center.

performance by about half a dozen queens calling themselves the Rat City Queens on the patio of Drunk Two Shoes BBQ. "The response to Pride Skate Night and the drag show has been incredible," said Loughridge.

Pride Skate Night, cohosted by Girl Scout Troop #44284 and the Southside Revolution Coed Jr. Roller Derby team, ended up raising more than \$1,000 for Lambert House, a community center for LGBTQ+ youth in the greater Seattle area. The performance from the Rat City Queens—named after the neighborhood's nickname, Rat City—was attended by hundreds of people, many of them families.

Maring and Loughridge say they created the Pride fest as a way of getting the neighborhood together, but also to show off many of the new small and gay-owned businesses that have popped up in White Center.

These include the Lumber Yard Bar and the Swallow, the area's first gay bars, but also Dottie's Doublewide, a trailer-themed bar and restaurant, and the Plant Store, a very cute plant shop owned by a nice man named Miles. He'll happily show you how to mount a fern if you ask.

It's important to note that while the neighborhood is named White Center, it is ironically one of the most diverse areas in all of King County. It's majority-minority, with the 2010 US Census showing the area to be 60 percent communities of color. Dozens of languages are spoken, from Thai to Somali. Since it is not actually a center for whites, the saying for the neighborhood has long been: "Not so white, not so centered."

On another rowdy night during White Center Pride weekend, I run into Baby Guuurl, a loud up-and-coming drag queen who got her start in the scene by performing numbers where she ate cat food onstage.

She wears a curvy, houndstooth print dress with western fringe. I'm surprised to see her in White Center, because she's normally based in Seattle. She's about to perform her second number of the night at the Swallow. I am told there will be no cat food tonight.

"Girl, White Center is lit, girl," Baby Guuurl says to me, flipping her hair and checking out the men around her. The scene is very cruise-y, but friendly—friendlier than Seattle. Perhaps it's the novelty of being in a new place, but many men lock eyes with me, the sort of eye-locking that says, "Blow me—please?"

I ask Baby Guuurl if this is her first time here. She tells me no: She also performed at the Pride flag-raising event two days earlier. She says she's getting tipped very well at the Swallow.

Directly across the street at the Lumber Yard Bar, a lumberjack-themed gay bar, it's even rowdier. Another drag queen, Atasha Manila, is running around the bar chatting with patrons. She's glamorous but sweaty—the place is packed. The bar is divided into three sections: main floor, basement, and spacious back patio. The basement bathroom sports a lovely painting of a man giving a pixelated penis a blowjob.

Lumber Yard says it is White Center's first gay bar. It opened up in January of 2018 and has been growing ever since. In the basement on the Friday night of Pride, lots of locals were mixing with visitors from Seattle and Burien. There were even tourists, some from Connecticut. A woman in her 60s danced so hard that people cleared space for her. "YES, QUEEN!" drunks shouted at her. She appeared to be having the time of her life.

Giving an accurate snapshot of White Center's history is difficult, as the area has long existed in a media desert. A few local blogs, like White Center Now and White Center Blog, keep up with important news, but the larger King County media organizations typically only zoom into the neighborhood to bring up crime, homelessness, or gentrification. During White Center Pride, the only White Center news reported by the press outside the area was about a recent shooting that left an 18-year-old SeaTac man injured. The disproportional amount of crime reporting adds to the neighborhood's gritty lore.

Being in unincorporated King County means White Center doesn't have its own police department (like, say, Seattle does). White Center residents rely on King County Sheriff deputies for their law enforcement. The community also doesn't have the same laws and restrictions. They sometimes don't get things like sidewalks (except on main roads). "It's the Wild West out there," said a friend familiar with the neighborhood.

Since the 1950s, waves of immigrant and refugee families have settled in the area, many opening small businesses that have now existed for decades.

Young's Restaurant is one of White Center's longtime standouts. The second-generation Chinese American family-run breakfast joint has been serving White Center for nearly 40 years. It's a greasy spoon cooking up classic breakfasts alongside Chinese American dishes. While nothing cures a hangover quite like Belgian waffles and chow mein, the real star of the show is Janice, a server who is



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Janice hustles from table to table, checking in with customers she knows by name. If she doesn't, she will soon. Customers have noted that Janice and the staff of Young's can remember someone's name even a year after they've visited. Handwritten notes to Janice are posted on the wall of the restaurant. As you check out, staff members ask you what you're up to for the rest of the day—and they're really asking. It's easy to get lost in conversations with strangers in White Center, but it's especially easy at Young's. At the risk of sounding cheesy—you *really* feel like family here.

The quality of the food in White Center is phenomenal, the options as diverse as the neighborhood's communities. Just walking across White Center's historic business district, which stretches only about three small blocks from Southwest Cambridge Street to 100th Street, a person can eat Korean fried chicken, Korean Mexican fusion, pho, ice cream, elote, tacos, Mexican candies, Salvadoran baked goods, gourmet hot dogs, first-rate pizza, and crayfish so good it rivals the best New Orleans cooking. There are multiple taquerias and pot shops and Asian markets. You can eat your way through a three-day weekend on those three blocks (as my boyfriend and I did) and still not have tried even half of the neighborhood's food options.

For more than a decade, newer trendy restaurants have been popping up all over White Center's landscape. Full Tilt, the popular Seattle ice-cream chain, opened up in 2008. A Lil' Woody's burger joint opened in the neighborhood in 2017. Bok A Bok, known for its fried chicken, has a White Center location, too. So does Drunky Two Shoes BBQ, the popular Frelard barbecue place.

While dining at Drunky Two Shoes during White Center Pride, I had the unique experience of eating bone marrow next to a table full of gay pups. Not pups as in French bulldogs, but pups as in dudes in puppy masks panting next to their daddies. It's a popular kink in the Pacific Northwest.

The pups eyed me as I poured Drunky Two Shoes' famous "Doom Sauce" onto my marrow. It was so hot, it made my scalp tingle. As my face turned red, I set the bone down onto my plate. "Bad to the Bone" played poignantly in the background. The pups watched, wagging. It was at that moment that I felt I'd truly arrived in the gay neighborhood of the future.

On Saturday night of White Center Pride, partyers are spilling out of bars and onto the main strip to smoke cigarettes. Many have migrated over to the Swallow because the line for the Lumber Yard is down the block, almost touching Full Tilt. No one seems to mind waiting in line. People are blissed out, almost in awe.

While Friday night of White Center Pride felt very local, a community affair, Saturday sees a lot of people from Capitol Hill. Still, it's a diverse crowd: white twink next to older black men next to middle-aged Latina lesbians making out in the corner. It's more rowdy than a typical night in Seattle.

Everyone outside the Swallow is chatting, surprised to see people they know.

"I want to come down here to White Center—y'know, to support my friends and small businesses; also, it's just cool down here,"

says one of the preppy twinks visiting from Capitol Hill. "But I feel weird, too. I don't wanna..." he pauses, before saying the word people have been saying all night: "gentrify."

It's a concern everyone seems to have here. As Seattle's housing crisis has become a full-blown emergency, Seattleites have spilled out into the surrounding region. Many gay families, pushed out of Capitol Hill and other areas, have been moving south. Dislocating people who used to live here is a problem with no easy solutions. As the line at the Lumber Yard clearly signals, space is limited.

But to view the first annual White Center Pride as the beginning of gentrification in the area would be wrong, many residents tell me. It's too simplistic. There have been waves of gentrification for decades. A massive Uncle Ike's looms just off the main business strip. And now the gay bars. And coming soon: more hipsters. In December, the colorful Capitol Hill bar Unicorn is expected to open a Unicorn Two in White Center. It will be the area's largest bar ever, at around 15,000 square feet.

Another concern raised about the two new gay bars in White Center is their maleness, considering the neighborhood has long had a significant lesbian community, many of them women of color. Lumber Yard is basically a bear bar, and Swallow is covered with portraits of naked dudes with their dicks hanging out.

"Where do the lesbians go?" someone asked my boyfriend while we were standing in Swallow. My boyfriend pointed to his left: "I guess they go here," he said. We looked over and saw two women aggressively making out against the wall. They appeared to be minutes away from dropping their panties.

"Damn, get it!" someone shouted.

By the end of the weekend, it was obvious that the first White Center Pride had been a success. The organizers told me it totally exceeded their expectations.

"This year was a test to see if anyone would go, and it was pretty clear based on every event being busy that the community wants this," said Maring.

They said they'll definitely be doing it again next year. If you'd like to get involved, direct your eyeballs to whitecenterpride.org and check out the volunteer page.

To be honest, I've never really been one for Pride festivals. They seem so corporate, and the debauchery can be hard to keep up with. But White Center Pride changed my perspective. All weekend, residents walked around with White Center Pride stickers. Bars and restaurants and taquerias put up Pride flags. I saw families get emotional over a rainbow displayed at their local butcher shop. It was an important reminder that visibility is still needed.

The process of community building can be messy, and White Center faces many challenges as it continues to grow, but residents, queer and straight, seemed overwhelmingly proud to have hosted their first Pride.

"The amount of local people that came out was incredible," said Loughridge. "And that's exactly what we wanted. This was a Pride for our community. It was great to meet so many people who live close by. One man said it was like a big gay reunion, seeing people he hadn't seen in years." ■



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Blunt Talk

BY LESTER BLACK



How Gays Gave Us Ganja

There wasn't much of a choice for the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) when, in the spring of 2018, it was deciding whether or not to give final approval to Epidiolex, a brand-new CBD-based drug. Over multiple randomized, placebo-controlled drug trials, the drug had been administered to 516 people who were suffering from two rare forms of epilepsy. The results spoke for themselves: CBD had reduced the amount and severity of seizures the patients experienced.

The FDA approved Epidiolex. This was, of course, a boon for people who suffer from these disorders, but it also undercut the federal government's prohibition of pot, which the Feds still maintain has a high potential for abuse and no accepted medical use. It's a big deal: By approving Epidiolex, the FDA told the world that the government's history of cannabis prohibition is, in a word, bullshit.

This historic moment was, in many ways, thanks to a bunch of rebellious queers in San Francisco way back when.

Let me explain.

The modern American medical marijuana movement was in large part launched in San Francisco in the 1980s and '90s, when a series of different forces coalesced around pot. In the 1980s, the HIV/AIDS epidemic was advancing through the gay community at a frightening pace, while the US government and the medical community either looked the other way or grossly stigmatized the people with the virus.

Meanwhile, California was already on its way to becoming an international hotbed of cannabis, with hippies using the consistent sun in the remote northern part of the state to breed new and more potent forms of pot, many of which form the staple cultivars sold across the world today. In the midst of these two forces sat San Francisco, an

ultra-liberal city that had both a large gay community and a political history of giving the Feds the middle finger.

Unsurprisingly, the city's gay community discovered that pot was hugely helpful in treating the symptoms of HIV/AIDS. One witness to pot's medical value was Dennis Peron, a Vietnam veteran living in San Francisco who saw how pot helped his HIV-positive partner. Peron, a close friend of Harvey Milk, was as much a political organizer as a pothead, and he started the country's first public dispensary, the San Francisco Cannabis Buyers Club, which later played an instrumental role in California's 1996 legalization of medical marijuana.

One person who saw this play out was Mary Lynn Mathre, a registered nurse, who in 1997 published a detailed manifesto of pot's medical qualities and uses. Her book eventually made its way to Geoffrey Guy, a

Gays discovered pot was helpful for treating the symptoms of HIV/AIDS.

British doctor and scientist, who was inspired to explore pot's medical properties. He eventually started his own company, GW Pharmaceuticals, which acquired a license from the British government to grow and study pot.

Twenty years later, Guy submitted a CBD drug for approval to the FDA that went by the name of—you guessed it—Epidiolex. When the drug was approved by the FDA, the movement started by San Francisco's gay community more than 30 years earlier was complete.

The United States government finally admitted that pot is medicine. The gays knew it all along. ■

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Savage Love

BY DAN SAVAGE



JOE NEWTON

Why Not Me?

I found your column after a Google search. I saw your e-mail address at the bottom and was hoping for some insight. My issue is this: Two years into our 23-year marriage, my wife declared that she didn't want to kiss me or perform oral on me. Several years ago, she had an affair and confessed that she not only kissed this other person but performed oral on them as well. Why them and not me? Should I just go find someone willing to do what I want? I have a high sex drive, but I find that I don't want to sleep with my wife anymore because there is never any foreplay and a few minutes into it she's telling me to hurry up. I don't feel wanted, and honestly I no longer desire her. What do you make of this?

Hurting Unwanted Husband

Before telling you what I make of your e-mail, HUH, I want to tell you what I wish I could make out of your e-mail: a time machine. If I could turn all those pixels and code and whatever else into a working time machine, I'd drag your ass back to 1996 (and try to talk

you out of marrying your wife) or 1998 (and try to talk you into leaving her after two years of marriage). But since time machines aren't a thing—at least not yet—we'll have to talk about the here and now.

Your wife isn't attracted to you, and never was, or hasn't been for a long, long time. And now the feeling is mutual—you aren't attracted to her anymore, either. And if you're seriously wondering why she kissed and blew that other person—the person with whom she had an affair—when she hasn't wanted to kiss or blow you for 20-plus years (“Why them and not me?”), HUH, the answer is as painful as it is obvious: Your wife was attracted to her affair partner (that's why them) and she's not attracted to you (that's why not you).

Now, it's possible your wife was attracted to you a long time ago; I assume she was kissing and blowing you while you were dating and during the first couple dozen months of marriage. (She wouldn't have to announce she was going to stop doing those things if she'd never started.) But at some point relatively early in your marriage, HUH, your wife's desire to swallow your spit and inhale

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your dick evaporated. It's possible her desire to swallow/inhale the spit/dick of her affair partner would have evaporated in roughly the same amount of time, and she would have lost interest in him and his dick and his spit, as well. Some people have a hard time sustaining desire over time—and contrary to popular belief, women have a harder time sustaining desire in committed, romantic relationships than men do. (Wednesday Martin wrote an entire *NYT* best-selling book about it, *Untrue: Why Nearly Everything We Believe About Women, Lust, and Infidelity Is Wrong and How the New Science Can Set Us Free*.)

Of course, it's possible your wife isn't the problem. You may have said or done something that extinguished your wife's desire for you. Or, hey, maybe your personal hygiene leaves everything to be desired. (I've received countless letters over the years from women whose husbands refuse to brush their teeth and/or can't wipe their asses properly.) Or maybe you're emotionally distant or cold or contemptuous or incredibly shitty in bed. Or maybe you're not the problem! I don't know you, HUH, and other than the very few details you included your very brief letter, I don't know what's going on in your marriage.

But I do know this: If you can leave, HUH, you most likely should. But if you decide to stay because you want to stay, or because leaving is unthinkable for cultural or religious or financial reasons... well, seeing as how your wife hasn't wanted to fuck you for decades, and seeing as how you no longer want to fuck your wife, you should release each other from the monogamous commitment you made more than two decades ago. If you can adjust your expectations—if you can both agree to

define your marriage as companionate, i.e., you're friends and life partners, not romantic or sexual partners—you may be able to appreciate your marriage for what it is. But to do that, you'll have to let go of the anger and disappointment you feel over what it's not.

And to be clear: If your marriage is companionate, you should both be free to seek sex with outside partners.

Simple question, probably not a simple answer: How do you keep things exciting once the shiny, new phase of a relationship is over? Is it normal to reach a stage where you know someone so well that they've become boring? Isn't that just the fucking worst?

Same Old, Same Old

Recognizing that some people actually enjoy boring—I have it on good authority that some people can get a thrill knitting sweaters and sitting still—there is something the rest of us can do to keep things exciting once the shiny, new phase of a relationship is over: go on strange and exciting new adventures together. Early on in the relationship, SOSO, your new partner was your exciting new adventure, and you were theirs. But now instead of *being* the exciting new adventure, you have to figure out what exciting new adventures you'd like to go on together—and then get out there and go on them.

I'm a young, nonbinary ethical slut, and I have a question about a kink that one of my partners is discovering. We are very close, although we are not sexually active with each other at this point (we are currently long-distance). She has another partner with whom she is currently exploring

"little" play. I feel personally uncomfortable with age-regression play, but I obviously want to be supportive and understanding. We have fairly good communication, and I am able to tell her when I feel uncomfortable and that I still love and support her but I just can't talk about "little" play at the time. I would love to be able to talk about it with her and be supportive, and at the very least make sure I don't say anything ignorant or hurtful to her. My question is this: How can I stretch my zone of comfort and learn about this kink in a healthy and educated way?

A Little Uncomfortable

If you want to get more comfortable discussing "little" play, i.e., adults pretending to be small children with other consenting adults, the *Dream a Little* podcast is a good place to start. It's hosted by Lo, an AB/DL (adult baby/diaper lover) who has been a guest on my own podcast and who recently made an appearance in the column offering advice to a sad and lonely AB/DL. That said, ALU, you aren't obligated to listen to your partner talk about this kink if the topic makes you uncomfortable—or just bores you senseless. Tell her that you support her and you know it's exciting to explore a new kink, and while she doesn't have to hide this from you, it's not something you're comfortable—at least for now—discussing at length. ■

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Free Will Astrology

BY ROB BREZSNY

June 19–25

ARIES (MARCH 21–APRIL 19): Orfield Laboratories is an architectural company that designs rooms for ultimate comfort. They sculpt the acoustic environment so that sounds are soft, clear, and pleasant to the human ear. They ensure that the temperature is just right and the air quality is always fresh. At night, the artificial light is gentle on the eyes, and by day, the sunlight is rejuvenating. In the coming weeks, I'd love for you to be in places like this on a regular basis. According to my analysis of the astrological rhythms, it's recharging time for you. You need and deserve an abundance of cozy relaxation.

TAURUS (APRIL 20–MAY 20): I hope that during the next four weeks you will make plans to expedite and deepen your education. You'll be able to make dramatic progress in figuring out what will be most important for you to learn in the next three years. We all have pockets of ignorance about how we understand reality, and now is an excellent time for you to identify what your pockets are and to begin illuminating them. Every one of us lacks some key training or knowledge that could help us fulfill our noblest dreams, and now is a favorable time for you to address that issue.

GEMINI (MAY 21–JUNE 20): In the next four weeks, you're not likely to win the biggest prize or tame the fiercest monster or wield the greatest power. However, you could very well earn a second- or third-best honor. I won't be surprised if you claim a decent prize or outsmart a somewhat menacing dragon or gain an interesting new kind of clout. Oddly enough, this less-than-supreme accomplishment may be exactly right for you. The lower levels of pressure and responsibility will keep you sane and healthy. The stress of your moderate success will be very manageable. So give thanks for this just-right blessing!

CANCER (JUNE 21–JULY 22): Some traditional astrologers believe solar eclipses are sour omens. They theorize that when the moon perfectly covers the sun, as it will on July 2, a metaphorical shadow will pass across some part of our lives, perhaps triggering crises. I don't agree with that gloomy assessment; I consider a solar eclipse to be a harbinger of grace and slack and freedom. In my view, the time before and after this cosmic event might resemble what the workplace is like when the boss is out of town. Or it may be a sign that your inner critic is going to shut up and leave you alone for a while. Or you could suddenly find that you can access the willpower and ingenuity you need so as to change something about your life that you've been wanting to change. So I advise you to start planning now to take advantage of the upcoming blessings of the eclipse.

LEO (JULY 23–AUG 22): What are you doing with the fertility and creativity that have been sweeping through your life during the first six months of 2019? Are you wistfully idealistic, caught up in perfectionistic detail as you cautiously follow outmoded rules about how to make best use of that fertility and creativity? Or are you being expansively pragmatic, wielding your lively imagination to harness that fertility and creativity to generate transformations that will improve your life forever?

VIRGO (AUG 23–SEPT 22): Mythologist Joseph Campbell said that heroes are those who give their lives to something bigger than themselves. That's never an easy assignment for anyone, but right now it's less difficult for you than ever before. As you prepare for the joyous ordeal, I urge you to shed the expectation that it will require you to make a burdensome sacrifice. Instead, picture the process as involving the loss of a small pleasure that paves the way for a greater pleasure. Imagine you will finally be able to give a giant gift you've been bursting to express.

LIBRA (SEPT 23–OCT 22): In 1903, the Wright brothers put wings on a heavy machine and got the contraption to fly up off the ground for 59 seconds. No one had ever done such a thing. Sixty-six years later, American astronauts succeeded at an equally momentous feat. They piloted a craft that departed from Earth and landed on the surface of the moon. The first motorcycle was another quantum leap in humans' ability to travel. Two German inventors created the first one in 1885. But it took 120 years before any person did a backflip while riding a motorcycle. If I had to compare your next potential breakthrough to one or the other marvelous invention, I'd say it'll be more metaphorically similar to a motorcycle flip than the moon landing. It may not be crucial to the evolution of the human race, but it will be impressive—and a testament to your hard work.

SCORPIO (OCT 23–NOV 21): In the year AD 37, Saul of Tarsus was traveling by foot from Jerusalem to Damascus. He was on a mission to find and arrest devotees of Jesus and bring them back to Jerusalem to be punished. Saul's plans got waylaid, however—or so the story goes. A "light from heaven" knocked him down, turned him blind, and spoke to him in the voice of Jesus. Three days later, Saul's blindness was healed and he pledged himself to forevermore be one of those devotees of Jesus he had previously persecuted. I don't expect a transformation quite so spectacular for you in the coming weeks, Scorpio. But I do suspect you will change your mind about an important issue and consider making a fundamental edit of your belief system.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 22–DEC 21): You could be a disorienting or even disruptive influence to some people. You may also have healing and inspirational effects. And yes, both of those statements are true. You should probably warn your allies that you might be almost unbearably interesting. Let them know you could change their minds and disprove their theories. But also tell them that if they remain open to your rowdy grace and boisterous poise, you might provide them with curative stimulation they didn't even know they needed.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22–JAN 19): Some children are repelled by the taste of broccoli. Food researchers at the McDonald's restaurant chain decided to address the problem. In an effort to render this ultra-healthy vegetable more palatable, they concocted a version that tasted like bubble gum. Kids didn't like it, though. It confused them. But you have to give credit to the food researchers for thinking inventively. I encourage you to get equally creative, even a bit wacky or odd, in your efforts to solve a knotty dilemma. Allow your brainstorm to be playful and experimental.

AQUARIUS (JAN 20–FEB 18): Spank yourself for me, please. Ten sound swats ought to do it. According to my astrological assessments, that will be sufficient to rein yourself in from the possibility of committing excesses and extravagance. By enacting this humorous yet serious ritual, you will set in motion corrective forces that tweak your unconscious mind in just the right way so as to prevent you from getting too much of a good thing; you will avoid asking for too much or venturing too far. Instead, you will be content with and grateful for the exact bounty you have gathered in recent weeks.

PISCES (FEB 19–MARCH 20): Your inspiration for the coming weeks is a poem by Piscean poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. It begins like this: "The holiest of all holidays are those / Kept by ourselves in silence and apart; / The secret anniversaries of the heart, / When the full river of feeling overflows." In accordance with astrological omens, Pisces, I invite you to create your own secret holiday of the heart, which you will celebrate at this time of year for the rest of your long life. Be imaginative and full of deep feelings as you dream up the marvelous reasons why you will observe this sacred anniversary. Design special rituals you will perform to rouse your gratitude for the miracle of your destiny.

Homework: It's my birthday. If you feel moved, send me love and blessings! Info about how to do that at freewillastrology.com.

June 26–July 2

ARIES (MARCH 21–APRIL 19): Here are your short and sweet horoscopes for the coming months. JULY: Discipline your inner flame. Use your radiance constructively. Your theme is *controlled fire*. AUGUST: Release yourself from dwelling on what's amiss or off-kilter. Find the inspiration to focus on what's right and good. SEPTEMBER: Pay your dues with joy and gratitude. Work hard in service to your beautiful dreams. OCTOBER: You can undo your attractions to "gratifications" that aren't really very gratifying. NOVEMBER: Your allies can become even better allies. Ask them for more. DECEMBER: Be alert for unrecognized value and hidden resources.

TAURUS (APRIL 20–MAY 20): Here are your short and sweet horoscopes for the coming months. JULY: If you choose to play one of life's trickier games, you'll have to get trickier yourself. AUGUST: Shedding irrelevant theories and unlearning old approaches will pave the way for creative breakthroughs. SEPTEMBER: Begin working on a new product or project that will last a long time. OCTOBER: Maybe you don't need that emotional crutch as much as you thought you did. NOVEMBER: Explore the intense, perplexing, interesting feelings until you're cleansed and healed. DECEMBER: Join forces with a new ally and/or deepen an existing alliance.

GEMINI (MAY 21–JUNE 20): Here are your short and sweet horoscopes for the coming months. JULY: It's time to take fuller advantage of a resource you've been neglecting or underestimating. AUGUST: For a limited time only, two plus two equals five. Capitalize on that fact by temporarily becoming a two-plus-two-equals-five type of person. SEPTEMBER: It's time and you're ready to discover new keys to fostering interesting intimacy and robust collaboration. OCTOBER: The boundaries are shifting on the map of the heart. That'll be a good thing as long as you acknowledge it and embrace it. NOVEMBER: If you do what you fear, you'll gain unprecedented power over the fear. DECEMBER: What's the one thing you can't live without? Refine and deepen your relationship to it.

CANCER (JUNE 21–JULY 22): Here are your short and sweet horoscopes for the coming months. JULY: Acquire a new personal symbol that thrills your mind, evokes rich new feelings, and educates your soul. AUGUST: Reconfigure the way you attract money into your life. SEPTEMBER: Book learning is less important than streetwise research. Lower education is more useful than higher education. Be a rogue scholar of life's accidental poetry. OCTOBER: Your assignment is to ask for more help than you normally do. It's time to aggressively build up your support. NOVEMBER: Creativity is your superpower. Reinvent any part of your life that needs a bolt of imaginative ingenuity. DECEMBER: Love and care for what you imagine to be your flaws and liabilities.

LEO (JULY 23–AUG 22): Here are your short and sweet horoscopes for the coming months. JULY: Transform something that's semi-ugly into something that's useful and winsome. AUGUST: Go to the top of the world and seek a big vision of who you must become. SEPTEMBER: Your instinct for worthy and constructive adventures is impeccable. Trust it. OCTOBER: Be alert for a new teacher with a capacity to teach you precisely what you need to learn. NOVEMBER: Your mind might deceive you, but your body and soul won't. DECEMBER: Fresh hungers and budding fascinations should alert you to the fact that deep in the genius part of your soul, your master plan is changing.

VIRGO (AUG 23–SEPT 22): Here are your short and sweet horoscopes for the coming months. JULY: I'd love to see you phase out wishy-washy wishes that keep you distracted from your burning, churning desires. AUGUST: A story that began years ago begins again. Be proactive about changing the themes you'd rather not repeat. SEPTEMBER: Get seriously and daringly creative about living in a more expansive world. OCTOBER: Acquire a new tool or skill that will enable you to carry out your mission more effectively. NOVEMBER: Unanticipated plot twists can help heal old dilemmas about intimacy. DECEMBER: Come up with sound plans to eliminate bad stress and welcome good stress.

LIBRA (SEPT 23–OCT 22): Here are your short and sweet horoscopes for the coming months. JULY: Say this prayer every day: "The less I have to prove and the fewer people I have to impress, the smarter I'll be." AUGUST: Escape an unnecessary limitation. Break an obsolete rule. Ignore an inessential tradition. SEPTEMBER: What kind of "badness" might give your goodness more power? OCTOBER: You're stronger and freer than you thought you were. Use your untapped power. NOVEMBER: Narrowing your focus and paring down your options will serve you beautifully. DECEMBER: Replace what's fake with the Real Thing.

SCORPIO (OCT 23–NOV 21): Here are your short and sweet horoscopes for the coming months. JULY: Stretch yourself—freelance, moonlight, diversify, and expand. AUGUST: Power over other people isn't the ultimate aphrodisiac, power over yourself is. SEPTEMBER: Ask the big question, and be ready to act expeditiously when you get the big answer. OCTOBER: I think you can arrange for the surge to arrive in manageable installments. Seriously. NOVEMBER: Dare to break barren rules that are obstructing small miracles and cathartic breakthroughs. DECEMBER: Don't wait around hoping to be given what you need. Instead, go after it. Create it yourself, if necessary.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 22–DEC 21): Here are your short and sweet horoscopes for the coming months. JULY: Can you infuse dark places with your intense light without dimming your intense light? Yes! AUGUST: It's time for an archetypal Sagittarian jaunt, quest, or pilgrimage. SEPTEMBER: The world around you needs your practical idealism. Be a role model who catalyzes good changes. OCTOBER: Seek out new allies and connections that can help you with your future goals. NOVEMBER: Be open to new and unexpected ideas so as to get the emotional healing you long for. DECEMBER: Shed old, worn-out self-images. Reinvent yourself. Get to know your depths better.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22–JAN 19): Here are your short and sweet horoscopes for the coming months. JULY: You have a special capacity to feel at peace with your body, to not wish it were different from what it naturally is. AUGUST: You can finally solve a riddle you've been trying to solve for a long time. SEPTEMBER: Make your imagination work and play twice as hard. Crack open seemingly closed possibilities. OCTOBER: Time to move up at least one rung on the ladder of success. NOVEMBER: Make yourself more receptive to blessings and help you have overlooked or ignored. DECEMBER: You'll learn most from what you leave behind—so leave behind as much as possible.

AQUARIUS (JAN 20–FEB 18): Here are your short and sweet horoscopes for the coming months. JULY: I'll cry one tear for you, and then I'll cheer. AUGUST: Plant seeds in places that hadn't previously been on your radar. SEPTEMBER: You may seem to take a wrong turn, but it'll take you where you need to go. OCTOBER: Open your mind and heart as wide as you can. NOVEMBER: I bet you'll gain a new power, higher rank, or greater privilege. DECEMBER: Send out feelers to new arrivals who may be potential helpers.

PISCES (FEB 19–MARCH 20): Here are your short and sweet horoscopes for the coming months. JULY: Your creative powers are at a peak. AUGUST: Wean yourself from pretend feelings and artificial motivations and inauthentic communications. SEPTEMBER: If you want to have greater impact and more influence, you can. Make it happen! OCTOBER: Love is weird but good; love stings but sings. Trust the odd journey it takes you on. NOVEMBER: If you cultivate an appreciation for paradox, your paradoxical goals will succeed. DECEMBER: Set firm deadlines. Have fun disciplining yourself.

Homework: What were the circumstances in which you were most vigorously alive? Testify at freewillastrology.com.

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JUNE 20
→
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THINGS TO DO

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Thurs July 4MORE
EVENTS
— AT —
STRANGER
THINGS TO DO
DOT COM

COURTESY OF SEAFAIR

THE BIG & THE OBVIOUS

Fourth of July

Fourth of July is just around the corner, and its best qualities (namely, barbecue, sunshine, apple pie, and fireworks displays) are within reach across the city. The biggest event is **Seafair Summer Fourth**, promising brews, food trucks, a pie-eating contest, and live entertainment at Gas Works Park, which boasts excellent views of the fireworks show on Lake Union. Food-wise, if you prefer Kobe beef and Dungeness crab to hot dogs and hamburgers, there's Waterways' **Fourth of July Fireworks Party Cruise**. If you want to see how orangutans, lemurs, and other Woodland Park Zoo residents like to spend the holiday, head to **Red, White & Zoo** (June 29–30) to watch them devour watermelon and corn-on-the-cob treats. And if you want to sit inside and hear music by famous American composers, the Seattle Wind Symphony has your ticket with its **Star-Spangled Spectacular** (Wed July 3 at Benaroya Hall).

Fremont Fair

As the self-proclaimed "Center of the Universe," Fremont loves its free-spirited celebrations, and the two-day (June 22–23) outdoor summer festival is no exception. It's primarily known for the delightful Solstice Parade on Saturday, featuring elaborately painted (and sometimes just wild and free) nude bicyclists and inventive costumes. But the fair also offers a craft market, live music from the likes of the Black Tones, a Sunday dog parade, and plenty more for hippies, families, foodies, and artists alike.

Urban Craft Uprising

Urban Craft Uprising (June 22–23 at Seattle Center Exhibition Hall) bills itself as "Seattle's largest indie craft show," and, judging from the consistently strong turnouts over the course of its 15-year history, it ain't lying. The summer edition of the two-day biannual show boasts a wide variety of handcrafted goods from more than 150 local indie vendors, from jewelry to clothing to housewares to food. It's a solid way to hide from the sun for a few hours, and we have no doubt you'll leave with new inspiration and knowledge about crafting (and hopefully an armful of nifty new wares).

ACE Comic Con

If you missed the Emerald City Comic Con this year, don't sweat it—ACE Comic Con (June 28–30 at CenturyLink Field Event Center) will provide you with another chance to meet all your favorite on-screen superheroes (like *Captain America*'s Chris Evans, *Captain Marvel*'s Lee Pace, *Star Trek*'s Zoe Saldana, and *Avengers*' Josh Brolin, Jeremy Renner, and Don Cheadle), plus more than 60 comics creators (like Brianna Garcia and Aaron Lambert) and more than 100 vendors and exhibitors. We don't have to tell you that cosplay is beyond welcome.

Dragonfest

Of last year's Dragonfest, Leilani Polk wrote, "When you live in Chinatown, you start to take the dragon and lion dances—a traditional form of Chinese dance that is said to bring

good fortune—for granted. But the performances are longer and more elaborate during Dragonfest, taking on extra festive overtones as the team of performers maneuvers and manipulates the long, undulating bodies down the streets of the ID." This year's festival (Sat June 29) promises the same caliber of cultural performances, plus tons of craft vendors and chances to taste local bites from more than 40 neighborhood restaurants at the \$3 food walk.

Arts in Nature Festival

For those who never got to go to summer camp, the Arts in Nature Festival (June 29–30) is a lovely, all-ages-friendly alternative—and free! Situated in the forests of Camp Long just off the main drag of West Seattle, the annual event presents a series of acoustic, unplugged performances by musicians (like Hollis Wong-Wear), dancers (like the Au Collective), comedians (like El Sanchez), and other performers (like drag artist Cherdonna Shinatra) across several stages, plus visual art shows and participatory art happenings set against the most beautiful backdrop: Mother Nature. Also come for artsy hikes, yoga, food trucks, a beer garden, and chances to make paintings en plein air.

Pride Weekend

Round up your friends, your rainbow flags, and your party energy—the Pride Parade is coming on Sunday, June 30, bringing with it Seattle's biggest weekend of drag performances, queer dance parties, and other LGBTQ-centric events. Flip to page 61 for

tons of ways to celebrate the last days of Pride Month, and find even more events at strangerthingstodo.com. ■

Short List

Greenwood Car Show
Greenwood Ave N, Sat
June 29, 8 am–4 pm,
free–\$30

Iranian Festival
Seattle Center, Sat June
22, 11 am–7 pm, free

Japan Fair
Meydenbauer Center,
June 29–30, 10 am, free

MagicFest Seattle
Washington State
Convention & Trade
Center, June 20–23, free

**Magnuson Park
Night Market**
Magnuson Park, Thurs
June 20, 4–9 pm, free

Make Music Day Seattle
Various locations, Fri June
21, free

**Orca Awareness
Celebration**
Seattle Aquarium, June
22–23, \$28/\$33

Parke Diem
Volunteer Park
Amphitheater, Sat June
29, 11 am–8 pm, free

**Seattle Night Market:
Asia**
South Lake Union
Saturday Market, Sat June
22, 4–10 pm, free

Seattle Outdoor Cinema
South Lake Union
Discovery Center, Sat
June 22, 4–11 pm, \$5 sug-
gested donation

**Soulstice: Summer
Kick-Off at the Mural**
Mural Amphitheatre, Fri
June 21, 5–9:30 pm, free

Spirit of Africa Festival
Seattle Center Armory,
Sat June 29, 12–9 pm, free

Taste of Tacoma
Point Defiance Park, June
21–23, 11 am, free–\$30

**WWE: Stomping
Grounds**
Tacoma Dome, Sun June
23, 3:30 pm, \$27–\$652

Early Warnings

LUCERNE SEAFAIR MILK CARTON DERBY *Green
Lake Park, Sat July 13, 10:30 am, \$25–\$250*

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THINGS TO DO → *Pride*



Seattle Pride Parade
Sun June 30 in Downtown Seattle

PHOTO BY NATE GOWDY/COURTESY OF SEATTLE PRIDE

Top Picks

SAT JUNE 22

Seattle Women's Pride

Pride Month in Seattle wouldn't be complete without the *Seattle Lesbian's* womxn-focused event, which this year features an award ceremony honoring activists and community members and a comedy show with some hilarious, down-to-earth local talent: Monisa Brown, Tambre Massman, and Val Nigro. Drink, laugh, bid on auction items, celebrate, and eat with womxn like you! (*The Riveter Capitol Hill, 6–10 pm, \$40/\$55.*)

JUNE 26–30

Kremwerk Complex Pride Week

The Kremwerk Complex has spent the last five years establishing itself as a well-respected touchstone within our city's drag, performance, dance music, and DJ scenes, so naturally their Pride weekend events pull from all their strengths. If you're on the hunt for the best drag and runway looks in town, kick off the weekend with **Thriftease**, **Day Drag**, and **Soft Shock** on Thursday; **Cucci's Critter Barn**, **Rapture**, and **MUGZ** on Friday; **Arthaus 5.0 All-Stars** and **Revival: Lights Out** on Saturday; and **Gothic Barbie Drag Haus** on Sunday. If you're a real night owl, stay late on Thursday for **Midnight Snack**, an indulgent drag revue, and on Saturday for **SLIP: Pride After Hours**, a slinky party with our city's best drag and DJ talents that will keep you up through the morning. If the urge to shimmy is guiding your itinerary, then strip down to your panties for **HEAT's Pride Underwear Party** on Friday, spin out to **Bézier's** genre-defying set on Saturday, enjoy the talents of local DJ collective **BabexHouse** on Sunday, or wind down at the concluding all-day **tea dance** copresented by Re-bar. (*Kremwerk, free–\$50.*)

Seattle Alternative Pride Festival

True to the diverse spectrum of sexuality and identity, Pride runs in several currents. NARK

Magazine's event series bills itself as being "for EVERYONE, EVERYBODY and EVERY BODY." Kick things off Wednesday with a **market** at Grim's filled with possible party looks for your weekend. At Thursday's **Laser Show** at Pacific Science Center, dance to curated sets by DJ Gag Reflex and s O F T P E A K s, and spend Friday sampling **rooftop happy hour drinks** at MBar, **making out with strangers** at Queer Bar, or partying at the **Pigs Fly Fetish Night** at Grim's. Recover Saturday with a special double-boat **Pride cruise**, and/or the 28-hour **Pride Is For Everyone** dance party at Grim's, and finish up on Sunday at the **Backdoor** with South East, Gluttony, Matt Troy, and many more. Some proceeds from the parties will benefit Gay City and its health projects. (*Various locations, \$30–\$130.*)

THURS JUNE 27

Queer/Pride Burlesque Kick Off

Before their three-day Pride party kicks off (read more about that in the music section), Queer Bar is throwing an extra-sexy party, a version of their regular Queer/Burlesque show, which is hosted by Lucy Lips and Joel Domenico. Rejoice in diverse, queer body positivity and watch alluring moves by Indigo Blue, Faggedy Randy, Nox Falls, Valtesse, and Shay Simone, then glide onto the dance floor yourself. (*Queer Bar, 9 pm, \$15/\$25.*)

Stand Up for Pride

Get irreverent with prolific, delightful local comedians Bobby Higley and Woody Shticks, who'll host a night of queer laughs with stand-up comics Caitlin Weierhauser, Sabrina Jalees, Patti Harrison, and Matteo Lane. Some proceeds will benefit Seattle PrideFest. (*SIFF Cinema Egyptian, 6:30 and 9:30 pm, \$25–\$50.*)

FRI JUNE 28

Trans Pride Seattle

For the seventh year, Gender Justice League will host a full day of activities celebrating trans, nonbinary, and gender diverse identities on Capitol Hill with live music, speeches, and comedy in Cal Anderson Park following UW Q's Trans Pride Parade at Seattle Central College. Also, check out a

cocktail-filled kickoff at Babeland and a laid-back community tea at Friday Afternoon the day after the main event. (*Capitol Hill, 5–9:30 pm, free.*)

JUNE 28–29

Elysian Pride Celebrations

As the official beer sponsors of Pride, Elysian brewers concocted a special fruit-forward ale, called Glitteris, by adding blackberry and raspberry purees to the fermenter—and naturally, it's glittery, too. Try it for yourself at their funk-themed "pre-funk" and release party on Friday, where you can groove to tunes from DJ Stas THEE Boss. During their main event on Saturday, hang out in the beer garden all day to partake in temporary tattoos, a photo booth, and even more music from DJ Riz, DJ LGSP, DJ Trinitron and DJ Ramiro. A drag show headlined by *RuPaul's Drag Race* season five winner Jinx Monsoon will cap things off. (*Elysian Brewing Company, 5–10 pm, free.*)

'Gender Tender: Melted Riot'

For a conceptual take on Pride, Fox Whitney, the 2018 Velocity Dance Center artist in-residence, has created a reverie based on "drag artist and cabaret singer Stormé DeLarverie throwing the first punch at the Stonewall Riots." *Melted Riot* evokes the queer community's reactions to oppression and support through durational performance, visuals, and dance. (*Velocity Dance Center, 8 pm, \$20/\$25.*)

JUNE 28–30

Wildrose PRIDE with GayEXP

Lesbian holdout the Wildrose will revamp their annual 15,000 square foot block party for Pride with live music, all-day and all-night DJ sets, go-go dancers, multiple bars, and food from Pettiroso. If you want to bro down, they'll have an eight-team beer pong table. If you're more of the boogie type, enjoy the services of DJ Riz all day Sunday and sets by ManDate, MirrorGloss, and Chanarah on Saturday. (*Wildrose, \$20/\$25.*)

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THINGS TO DO → Pride

SAT JUNE 29

Day Crush to Night Crush

Night Crush is a monthly dance party for queers that centers on people of color to maintain a safe space for QTPOC, people of varying abilities, and all bodies. This popular night will be doubled in duration for Pride, taking its attendees through a day of go-go crews and DJs—including Stas Three Boss and Kween KaySh—into a night of queer magic with Casual Aztec, Delish Da Goddess, and more. (Re-bar, 4 pm–3 am, \$20–\$45.)

PrideFest Capitol Hill

The sixth year of PrideFest Capitol Hill and the 50th anniversary of Stonewall will collide on this merry occasion. Spend all day skipping across the freshly painted rainbow crosswalks in the company of more than 50,000 fellow LGBTQ+ Seattleites and allies, stopping along the way for drag shows, family activities, karaoke, and so much more. At the main stage, there will be DJs spinning all day, with intermittent performances from Isabella Extynn, Seattle Twerkshop, Londyn Bradshaw, Arson Nicki, and more. Cal Anderson Park will be Family Pride headquarters from 1–4 p.m. (featuring drag queen story time with Aleksa Manila and an adorable Doggy Drag Show with the Seattle Humane Society), until Queer Youth Pride takes over from 4–7 pm. There will also be karaoke from 12–6 at the North Stage on Broadway. (Cal Anderson Park & North Broadway, 12–10 pm, free.)

CLOSING SAT JUNE 29

‘They/Them’: The Festival

Drag king and former Intiman Emerging Artist Sam I’Am presents *They/Them: The Musical*, a solo show. Sam I’Am plays an expecting mother imagining the ways the life of their child would change depending on gender. Though their character explores the slipperiness of gender, the music will be “kinda more traditional,” according to Annex. Each night of the festival will kick off with a little cabaret featuring stand-up comedy, burlesque, and musical performances from trans, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming performance artists. (Annex Theatre, Thurs–Sat, 7:30 pm, \$10–\$40.) **RICH SMITH**

SUN JUNE 30

PrideFest Seattle Center

Think of this event as the pot of gold at the end of the Seattle Pride Parade rainbow—one filled with all-ages entertainment from noon to night. This year’s event coincides with the 50th anniversary of Stonewall, with “history moments” sandwiched between artist showcases, live music, and performances by everyone from Jinkx Monsoon to Chi Chi LaRue. Other highlights include Mama Tits (in a Judy Garland tribute), Beauty Boiz, and Whim W’Him. (Seattle Center, 12–8 pm, free.)

Seattle Pride Parade

After a month’s worth of Pride events, queers and allies of all stripes join the epic, four-hour procession that is the 45th annual Seattle Pride Parade, which goes from Fourth Avenue & Union all the way to PrideFest at Seattle Center. It’s a cream-of-the-crop people-watching opportunity, not to mention the best place to wave your rainbow flags in the breeze. This year’s parade announcers are Arson Nicki, CarLarans, Cookie Couture, DonnaTella Howe, Gaysha Starr, LatinRose, Londyn Bradshaw, Ms. Briq House, and Thadayus Wilson,

with grand marshals Mayor Jenny Durkan, Jinkx Monsoon, the Bailey-Boushay House, Camp Ten Trees, the Seattle Children’s Gender Clinic, and UTOPIA Seattle. The Dykes That Ride will lead the parade, followed by organizations ranging from the Seattle Seahawks to *The Stranger*. (Downtown Seattle, 11 am, free.)

CLOSING SUN JUNE 30

‘Look How Far We’ve Come: A Queer Art Show 902 Feet in the Air’

Look How Far We’ve Come: A Queer Art Show 902 Feet in the Air is literally that—a bunch of queer art really high off the ground. Curated by Factory director Timothy Rysdyke, the show is featured right off the elevators at the 360-degree Sky View Observatory in the Columbia Center, Seattle’s tallest skyscraper. And while I’m usually not super thrilled at the idea of grouping work solely by marginalized identity, this show works in its straightforwardness and the talent of all involved. Sequoia Day O’Connell’s use of sickly greens and blues and bright neon pinks and oranges is an unexpected color combination that really works. After a night performing as Femme Daddy, Jessica Marie Mercy presses her made-up face into a baby wipe, creating these distinct portraits of drag, gender, and labor. Julian Peña’s Black John Doe has a beautiful cool palette. Its perspective is like looking at a body through a pane of dewy glass, a slowly uploaded picture of a friend, someone who you know but can’t quite place, an idea, a projection, etc. (Sky View Observatory, \$20 observatory admission.) **JASMINE KEIMIG**

MORE

StrangerThingsToDo.com

Short List

FESTIVALS

Bainbridge Pride Festival at the Waterfront
Waterfront Park, Sun June 23, 12–6 pm, free

Capital City Pride
Heritage Park, Olympia
Sun June 23, free

Kitsap Pride
Evergreen Park, Thurs
June 20, 11 am–5 pm, free

Queer Bar’s Queer/Pride Festival
Capitol Hill, June 28–30, \$30–\$199

Seattle Dyke March
Seattle Central College,
Sat June 29, 5–8 pm, free

Trans Pride Parade
Cal Anderson Park, Fri
June 28, 5–8 pm, free

FOOD & DRINK

Artisan Friday: Pickling with Pride
Elsom Cellars, Fri June 21, 5–6:30 pm, \$60

Mioposto Lady Bunny Benefit Cocktail Pride Weekend
Mioposto, June 28–30

Pride Drag Brunch
Capitol Cider, Sat June 29, 10 am–3 pm, free

Pride Pop-Up Dinner: Southern BBQ Deluxe!
The Tin Table, Mon June 24, 5–8:30 pm

Pride Tastings
Downtown Spirits, Thurs
June 27, 5–7 pm, free

Queers and Beers Present Planet Proud
Two Doors Down, Thurs
June 20, 5–11 pm, free

Seattle Pride Parade Brunch
Frolik Kitchen + Cocktails,
Sun June 30, 10 am–2 pm, \$5–\$100

Trans Pride Tea Social
Friday Afternoon, Sat
June 29, 2–5 pm

MUSIC

The Annual Pride Cruise
The Islander Cruise Ship,
Sat June 29, 12–4 pm, \$40

Bearracuda Seattle - Gay Pride!
Chop Suey, Fri June 28, 9 pm, \$12

Clyde Petersen: Drone Butch Blues
Cal Anderson Park
Shelterhouse, Sat June 22, 6 pm, free

Color Me Proud
Milepost 31, Sat June 29, 10 pm–1:30 am, \$10

Cuff Pride Block Party
Cuff Complex, June 29–30, 12 pm–2 am, \$30–\$55

PRIDE

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THINGS TO DO → *Pride*

Deck'd Out #2 Board of Deacons Rooftop Return

Monkey Loft, Thurs June 27, 7-11 pm, \$7

Flammable Pride Edition!

Re-bar, Sun June 30, 10 pm-2:30 am, \$13-\$25

HER Seattle: Queerdom

Hard Rock Cafe, Fri June 28, 9 pm-2 am, \$15-\$25

Laser Pride

Laser Dome at Pacific Science Center, Thurs June 27, 7-10 pm, \$20

Love Out Loud

W Seattle, June 28-30, 6 pm, free/\$29

The Make Out Party: Pride Edition

Queer/Bar, Fri June 28, 8 pm-2 am

Mamma Mia! Pride Edition

Neumos, Fri June 28, 10 pm, \$5

MBar's Third Annual Rooftop Pride Party

MBar, Fri June 28, 4 pm-12 am, \$10

Pride Benefit Concert with Helen Ray, Jennifer Hopper, & Justin Davis

Elsom Cellars, Sun June 30, 6 pm, \$10

Pride Kick Off with Moon Palace, MANiCA, Seaside Tryst

Chop Suey, Thurs June 27, 8 pm, \$8/\$10

Pride Night! Claire Michelle, Jayomi, and Flesh Produce

Conor Byrne, Fri June 28, 9 pm, \$8

Pride Week 2019

Neighbours, June 26-30, free-\$20

Pride: Woodlands T-Dance with Lucas Flamefly

Redhook Brewlab, Sun June 30, 12-8 pm, \$25-\$85

Psy Ops Presents Queer Ops: A Seattle LGBTQ Pride Celebration

Contour, Sat June 29, 9:30 pm-2 am, \$10

Queeraoke!

Friday Afternoon, Thurs June 27, 7-10 pm, free

Re-bar & Blue Spectral Storm Present Seattle Pride Friday 2019

Re-bar, Fri June 28, 10 pm-3 am, \$15

Seattle Men's Chorus: Summer of '69

Benaroya Hall, June 21-22, \$31-\$84

Stayin' Alive at the Roller Disco!

Southgate Roller Rink, Fri June 28, 9:30 pm-1:30 am, \$25/\$30

The Tea, An Afternoon Tea Dance Presented by Loosely Based

Monkey Loft, Sun June 23, 3-9 pm, \$5/\$10

Thank U, Next

Neumos, Sat June 29, 9 pm, \$5

Train Car Pride Party: Riz and Rob = Won Love!

Orient Express, Sat June 29, 10 am-10 pm, free

PARTIES

After Hours: aQUEERium

Seattle Aquarium, Thurs June 27, 6:30-9:30 pm, \$25

Introvert Pride Festival

Copious, June 27-29, 5-10 pm, free

Rise Up Belltown Pride Party!

Branchwater, Sun June 30, 11 am-2 pm

Seattle Dyke March Fundraiser Dance

Century Ballroom, Fri June 28, 8:30 pm-1 am, \$10-\$15

Social Queer's Pride Kickoff Darty!

Havana, Sat June 22, 1-5 pm, \$15/\$25

Union Pride

Union, June 28-30, free

SEX

Camp Ten Trees Pride Party

Babeland, Thurs June 20, 7-8 pm, free

Fancy Femmes Pride Party

Babeland, Thurs June 27, 7-9 pm, free

Queer n' Kinky: Bondage and Sensation Play 101

Babeland, Sat June 22, 7-8 pm, free

Queer Witch Sex Tips! Dyke March Kick-Off Party with Free Tarot Readings

Babeland, Sat June 29, 3-6 pm, free

Seattle Pride: Parade-Day Shopping Discounts at Babeland Seattle

Babeland, Sun June 30, 5-6 pm, free

Strap-Ons and Slices: Strappy Hour Pride Pizza Party

Babeland, Fri June 21, 7-8 pm, free

Trans Pride Kick-Off: Cocktails and Cupcakes

Babeland, Fri June 28, 4-5 pm, free

PERFORMANCE

#PrideBody

Unicorn, Fri June 28, 9 pm, \$8/\$10

BeautyBoiz Queer AF

Fred Wildlife Refuge, Fri June 28, 10 pm, \$20-\$35

Daikon//Dyke Con

Studio Current, Sat June 29, 9 pm, \$15

Genderfukt Does Pride

Vermillion, Fri June 28, 10:30 pm-1:30 am, \$3-\$30

Lipstick Libations: A Dark Violet Production

Palace Theatre & Art Bar, Sat June 29, 8 pm, \$22-\$35

Mae West's The Drag: A Homosexual Comedy in Three Acts

Gay City, Fri-Sun, free-\$24, through June 29

Meat Circus: Under the Big Top

Julia's Restaurant, June 22-Aug 24, Sat, 11 pm, \$25-\$250

Pride-lesque

W Seattle, Sat June 29, 8 pm, free

Queen4Queen: Pride

Pony, Thurs June 20, 9 pm, free

Queer Prom Seattle

Re-bar, Sat June 22, 7:30 pm-2 am, \$15-\$175

Rainbow Trashbag

Copious, Sat June 22, 10 pm, \$15

Scared Sex: Rising Above Stigma

Gay City, 7 pm, free, through June 20

Scrambled Drags: West End Brunch

Skylark Cafe & Club, Sat June 29, 1-4 pm, \$12/\$15

Spec Script: Transparent

Blue Moon Tavern, Sun June 30, 9-11:45 pm, \$7

Straight Pride Parade: The Drag Show

Copious, Thurs June 20, 7:30 pm, \$10/\$15

Take Me Out

12th Avenue Arts, Mon and Fri-Sun, \$36, through June 22

Tush! Pride!

Clock-Out Lounge, Thurs June 27, 9 pm, \$10/\$12

Versatile Arts Presents: Cirque Du Pride

Versatile Arts, Sat June 22, 7 pm, \$10/\$15

Vibes Pride

Neighbours, Thurs June 27, 9 pm-2 am, free

COMEDY

Best of Portland Queer Comedy Festival

Club Comedy Seattle, June 28-29, 7:30 pm, \$15/\$20

Gender Is a Joke

Annex Theatre, Thurs June 27, 7:30 pm, \$10

We Are Family: A Queer Comedy Show

Club Comedy Seattle, Thurs June 27, 7:30 pm, \$15/\$20

FILM

Before Stonewall: The Making of a Gay and Lesbian Community

Northwest Film Forum, June 23-28, \$12

'Love Simon' Free Movie Night

Foster Performing Arts Center, Fri June 28, 5 pm, free

Equation to an Unknown

Grand Illusion, Sat June 22, 9 pm, \$10

Totally Gay Sing-Along

Central Cinema, Thurs June 27, 8 pm, \$12/\$14

GEEK & GAMING

Name That Tune: Pride Edition!

Populuxe Brewing, Sat June 22, 7-9 pm, free

Pride No-Pants Pinball!

The Raygun Lounge, Fri June 28, 9-11:30 pm

Pride Trivia

Optimism Brewing, Mon June 24, 7 pm, free

Seattle Gaymers Pride Party

Neighbours, Wed June 26, 9 pm-2 am, \$10/\$15

SPORTS & RECREATION

Adult Pride Night

Lynnwood Bowl & Skate, Thurs June 27, 8 pm-12 am, \$7-\$11

Pride All Gender Swim

Rainier Beach Pool, Sat June 22, 6:15-7:45 pm, \$2

Prom Dress Rugby

Cal Anderson Park, Sat June 29, 1:45-4 pm, free

Rainbow Public Swim

Evans Pool, Sun June 23, 1:30-3 pm, free

Seattle Pride Quads

Judkins Park, Sat June 29, 8 am-7 pm, \$30/\$40

VISUAL ART

AMplify Memories: Temporary Installations

Cal Anderson Park, free, through Nov 15

Art Battle Seattle:

Pride Edition Re-bar, Thurs June 27, 6:30-10:30 pm, \$20/\$25

Gabriel Stromberg: Taking Shape

Cal Anderson Park, free, through Nov 15

Kevin Kauer: Nark

Vermillion, Tues-Sat, free, through July 6

Passiflora Market: Pride Month

Annex Theatre, Sat June 22, 12-4 pm, free

Pete Rush: Condom Quilt

Cal Anderson Park, free, through Nov 15

Plain Sight: Celebrating Pride in the Glass Community

Pilchuck Seattle, Mon-Fri, 10 am-4 pm, free, through June 28

Qu-Art

Push/Pull, Thurs June 27, 6-10 pm, free

Queer and Dear

Saltstone Ceramics, Wed-Sun, 11 am-6 pm, free, through July 28

Queer Clay

Pottery Northwest, Mon-Fri, 10 am-6 pm, free, through June 28

Stay Gay: A Big Gay Art Show

Cloud Gallery, free, through July 7

Timothy White Eagle: There Comes a Time When You Have to Give Them Back

Cal Anderson Park, free, through Nov 15

COMMUNITY

LGBTQ+ Business Founders Panel & Happy Hour

The Riveter Capitol Hill, Tues June 25, 6-8 pm, \$10

LGBTQI Pride Forum

New Freeway Hall, Thurs June 20, 7-8:30 pm, free



HENRY ART GALLERY HENRYART.ORG

Cecilia Vicuña: About to Happen

Apr 27– Sep 15, 2019



Henry

Image: Cecilia Vicuña. Arch sculpture, from the Presencia series, 1996–ongoing. Found object sculpture. [Installation view, Cecilia Vicuña About to Happen, 2017, Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans.] Photo: Alex Marks.

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THE MOORE THEATRE

FROM THE PRE-RAPHAELITES VICTORIAN RADICALS TO THE ARTS + CRAFTS MOVEMENT

The exhibition is organized by the American Federation of Arts and Birmingham Museums Trust. The exhibition is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional funding provided by Dave McKean and the Dr. Lee Haycock & Edwards Charitable Foundation.

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SAM SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

Musea (detail), ca. 1850–1870, Kate Cornish Runcie, English, 1804–1927, oil on canvas, 30 × 25 in., Lent by Birmingham Museums Trust on behalf of Birmingham City Council. Presented by Sir John Walker, 1837/1871. Birmingham Museums Trust. Courtesy American Federation of Arts.

Afflict the Comfortable, Comfort the Afflicted

Cauleen Smith's *Give It or Leave It* resonates in an unintentional way at the Frye.

BY JASMYNE KEIMIG

On my way out of Cauleen Smith's *Give It or Leave It* at the Frye Art Museum, a tweet I'd seen recently sprang to mind. Reflecting on something her friend had said, New York journalist and critic Jillian Steinhauer tweeted out to the world, "Just retract

CAULEEN SMITH: all my mixed reviews and
GIVE IT OR LEAVE IT replace them with 'almost
Frye Art Museum kind of a commentary on
Through Sept 1 something.'"

Give It or Leave It is almost, kind of a commentary on something. That doesn't mean that it's bad or unenjoyable. I enjoyed myself while ambling around the show—the colored gels over the windows, the projected tableaux, the disco balls. But there's a murkiness, a jumbledness, an obscure frame of reference that feels untethered and makes the ultimate message of the exhibition unsettled. It's an "almost, kind of" deeply touching meditation on black generosity and spirituality.

Smith's show is a vibrantly hued but messy altar. Riffing off the phrase "take it or leave it," she weaves together films, banners, multimedia pieces, and site-specific light installations from four distinct sources of inspiration: Alice Coltrane's California ashram, Bill Ray's 1966 photo at Simon Rodia's



CONSTANCE MENSCH

'Give It or Leave It' is sumptuously colorful, but its message is often murky.

Watts Towers, Noah Purifoy's desert assemblages, and Rebecca Cox Jackson's Shaker community in Pennsylvania.

A piece called *Space Station: Two Rebeccas* gets its name from Jackson, a 19th-century black spiritualist, free woman, and founder of the first black Shaker community in the United States. *Space Station: Two Rebeccas* is a clustered planetary system of at least a dozen disco balls stationed on a plush carpet. Two of these balls furiously orbit one another.

The second Rebecca is Jackson's protégé, Rebecca Perot, who took over leading the Shaker community after Jackson's death. Smith hand-painted two abstract films dedicated to each Rebecca, which she then projects separately onto those spinning balls. It's a history and representation that refracts a thousand times over onto the custom made, lacquer-like wallpaper that covers large swaths of the gallery spaces. It's mesmerizing.

But everything is so spread out—two of the

three galleries contain a short film and one other smaller piece. It is pretty, vibey, somewhat sparse, and shooting off in a thousand different directions. What makes the show a compelling visit is the way Smith's message lands within the context of the current labor struggles at the Frye.

The day *Give It or Leave It* officially opened, the newly formed Art Workers Union—composed of the museum's security staff—announced their desire to be voluntarily recognized by Frye CEO Joseph Rosa and the board of directors. The workers cited insufficient wages, lack of benefits, and not enough hours as the motivating factors that pushed them toward unionization.

This request was snubbed by museum leadership, who opted instead to hold an election overseen by the National Labor Relations Board to decide whether the majority of employees want to form a union. It appears to be a stalling tactic to slow the roll of whatever progress a union could make, while also trying to scare up opposition to said union.

When news of this came out, I immediately thought of a banner hanging inside *Give It or Leave It* that features Paul Thek's now famous phrase: "Afflict the comfortable, comfort the afflicted." Hey, do you think Frye management has seen it? ■

Top Picks

JUNE 25–AUG 31

Beili Liu: 'Each and Every'

Each and Every is Austin-based Beili Liu's first solo exhibition in Seattle. Liu creates immersive "site-responsive" and site-specific installations that create and explore various dichotomies. She often works with quotidian materials (thread, scissors, paper, water) to create her works, which both familiarizes and disorients viewers. For her show at MadArt, Liu will be suspending thousands of pieces of concrete-coated children's clothing inches above the gallery floor. (MadArt, Tues–Sat, free.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

CLOSING SUN JUNE 30

'Masks: The Art of Becoming'

In this yearly show, Stonington Gallery will be celebrating masks as both an art form and an existing cultural expression. Historically along the Northwest Coast, masks were tools of transformation, of "becoming" that helped tell stories and explain histories. *The Art of Becoming* features masks

that riff on their use in ceremonial practice and aesthetic expression from artists who live in and are from the Northwest Coast. These masks, these tools, will be made of diverse materials like wood, glass, stone, bronze, fiber, metal, and horsehair. (Stonington Gallery, daily, free.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

CLOSING SAT AUG 3

Peter Gronquist: 'Searcher'

Portland-based sculptor-painter-taxidermist Peter Gronquist's latest show "explores light as an added material to his paintings." Some of these paintings—though that word strains under the weight of what Gronquist is actually doing—fall somewhere between a James Turrell space and a Dan Flavin installation. He's interested in how light plays off the surface of his work, using Plexiglas (a type of acrylic) as part of each piece, adding LED lights to certain paintings and not to others. Gronquist will also show *A Visual History of the Invisible*, a series that attempts to capture the shapes and constant presence of the wind. (Winston Wachter Fine Art, Mon–Sat, free.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

CLOSING SUN SEPT 1

Jane Wong: 'After Preparing the Altar, the Ghosts Feast Feverishly'

I love how poets use space. I think it has something to do with the way their minds wrap around words, arranging them into something familiar yet strange, that lends itself well to curating spaces. This will be poet and artist Jane Wong's first solo exhibit. Exploring the themes of hunger and waste and their meaning for immigrant families, Wong's show will consist of altars, sculpture poems, and belongings alongside texts that evoke her childhood in New Jersey, where her parents ran a Chinese American restaurant. (Frye Art Museum, Tues–Sun, free.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

CLOSING SUN SEPT 8

'Victorian Radicals: From the Pre-Raphaelites to the Arts and Crafts Movement'

Encompassing the late 19th century, the Victorian era was a time of great change in all sections of British society—an expanded colonial reach of the crown and an explosion in industrialization. *Victorian*

Radicals explores how three generations of rebellious artists working in this period responded to these changes. Featuring 150 works from the collection of the Birmingham Museum of Art, the show will include paintings, drawings, books, sculptures, textiles, stained glass, and decorative art that consider nature, the importance of the handmade, and the search for beauty. (Seattle Art Museum, Wed–Sun, \$30.) JASMYNE KEIMIG

MORE

StrangerThingsToDo.com

Short List

MUSEUMS

The Allure of Matter: Material Art from China
Seattle Art Museum,
June 25–Sept 13, Wed–Sun, \$20

GALLERIES

Elyse Pignolet: You Should Smile More
Koplin Del Rio Gallery,
Tues–Sat, free, through June 29

Kook Teflon: Church of the Poison Mind
Virago Gallery, Wed–Sun, free, through June 30

Look How Far We've Come: A Queer Art Show 902 Feet in the Air
Sky View Observatory,
daily, \$20 observatory admission, through June 30

Mark D. Shelton: Passion for Our First Peoples
Flury & Company Gallery,
Mon–Sat, free, through June 27

THINGS DO → Performance

Brutal, Brilliant, and Unforgettable

Pass Over at ACT Theatre is an absolute must-see.

BY CHRISTOPHER FRIZZELLE

Two men sitting on a traffic island. That's the set. The men are already onstage as you take your seat. The traffic island, which has a lamppost rising out of its busted concrete, is where the show begins. Eighty minutes later, with no intermission, it's also where the show ends. Everyone familiar with *Pass Over* compares it to Samuel Beckett's masterpiece *Waiting for Godot*, and it's an apt comparison. But with all due respect to Beckett, in *Pass Over* things actually happen.

What happens? It's better knowing nothing going in, so I'm hesitant to tell you much. New York playwright Antoinette Nwandu

This show knocked the wind out of me. It knocked me out of my chair. Don't miss it.

has created two protagonists—Moses and Kitch—who are many things at once: individuals standing on a street corner, figures representing the universal experience of black men in the United States, and characters who seem lifted out of time (though they



CHRIS BENNION

Preston Butler III as Kitch, Treavor Lovelle as Moses, and Avery Clark as a cop.

are in the present, they also seem to belong to 1855, or 13th century BCE).

The actors playing the roles, Treavor Lovelle (as Moses) and Preston Butler III (as Kitch), have fantastic physical and emotional chemistry. Lovelle, a graduate of Cornish College of the Arts, is making his ACT debut. Moses is a hard role because he is dynamic

in inexplicable ways, alternately dejected and soaring, powerless at one moment and almost godlike at another. But Lovelle, in his command of the character, makes it look easy.

Kitch is easier to please, eager to play and talk and eat and joke around, whereas Moses is inward, wary, haunted. But Butler brings Kitch to fantastic life as well, and his perfor-

mance is joyful to watch.

Director Tim Bond, a professor at the University of Washington School of Drama, has done a fantastic job setting these characters in time and space and giving them room to make discoveries, while also making clear the limitations imposed on them by the outside—limitations literally represented by the audience members (on risers on all sides).

Partway through the show, out of nowhere, almost as if he is emerging out of the audience, or thin air, a man in a white linen suit (played by Avery Clark) appears, holding a picnic basket. *What the hell?* you think. That is what Moses and Kitch think, too. *Who the hell is THIS guy?* becomes one of the essential questions of the play. *And what is he after?*

What happens next is a chain of events that... I am not going to tell you about. But a cop is involved. And themes of transcendence versus being stuck. There's an apple pie. There's a gun. This is a high-quality production of a play that will shock you, and will take your breath away, and will leave you thinking about the present—and the sweep of history—in a new way.

It knocked the wind out of me. It knocked me out of my chair. The last word of the play was "Anyway," and then the lights went down, and I was on my feet. "Oh my god," I heard another audience member say as we exited the theater. *Pass Over* is not to be missed. ■

Stylish, Exuberant, and Cool

The 5th Avenue's new production of *West Side Story* is also a must-see.

BY CHRISTOPHER FRIZZELLE

A few years back, the 5th Avenue Theatre produced *A Chorus Line* with all its original Broadway choreography. Seeing it staged like that—the exact gestures, the complicated formations, the style and wit of each physical moment—was a revelation. I'd always liked *A Chorus Line*, but that was the first time I loved it, the first time I understood how such an oddball, oversexed, often-discordant musical had achieved its legendary status.

So it is with the 5th Avenue's new production of *West Side Story*, which is playing under the witty, creative, flawless direction of Bill Berry.

One inspired choice is his decision to re-create (with longtime 5th Avenue choreographer Bob Richard) the original Jerome

Robbins choreography, from the complicated fights in the streets to the frenzied dance-hall hedonism of 1950s New York City. The kicks, the waves, the extensions, the sudden reversals, the figures in unison, the feats of weightlessness, the snapping, the jumping—it's astonishing. Every number is stylish, clever, exuberant, and cool. I kept whispering to the friend who came with me: "Oh my god" and "Ha!" and "Whoa, that's amazing."

Also inspired: Berry's casting. Danielle Gonzalez, as Anita, is impossible to look away from, her backbends unbelievable, her acting impeccable. All five of the principals—Tony, Maria, Anita, Bernardo, and Riff—are out-of-towners. Why? As noted in the program, "This casting for this production strives to authentically reflect the communities defined in the script."

As Berry himself says, "There are so few

roles that exist for any number of specific cultures and communities. To not let that culture have access to these roles is really problematic." And yet in no case do you get the sense that you're watching this or that actor or dancer *because* they are Latinx or Caucasian or whatever. You are watching them because they are phenomenal performers, and because the 5th Avenue has taken the trouble to find them and bring them here and showcase their gifts.

They are paired onstage with a crew of local dancers from Spectrum Dance Theater, several of whom are making their 5th Avenue debut. Also making his 5th Avenue debut is Christopher Lopez, a third-year student at Cornish, in the role of Chino.

Watching Bernardo do a kick-up with a knife in one hand, watching Maria dance

naively around her bedroom while singing about feeling pretty, watching Anita transform from the sassy know-it-all of "America" to the haunted survivor of "A Boy Like That," it is hard to imagine improving on this cast.

Arguably the hardest parts to make interesting are Maria and Tony, because they're

so sappy and love-struck, and no one is intelligent or interesting when they're lovestruck. But William Branner, who notes in his bio that Tony in *West Side Story* is his "favorite role," and who sings the part *even higher* in places than it's usually sung, does it so well that it makes your heart soar. It makes you fall in love with him, like

you're some kind of delicate-boned girl from a rival gang. It makes you fall in love with the songs all over again. It makes you fall back in love with musical theater. ■



TRACY MARTIN

Rebbekah Vega-Romero as Maria and William Branner as Tony. Not pictured: the way my heart flutters whenever Branner sings.

THINGS TO DO → Performance

Top Picks

THURS JUNE 20

Justin Vivian Bond: Summer Solstice Benefit Performance

Justin Vivian Bond (who goes by the pronoun “v”) is best known as the powerhouse singer and morbid humorist who brought Kiki and Herb to demented life in one of the most fabled queer punk/cabaret duos of all time. Kiki being long since dead (or maybe she’s just frozen in ice or something?), Bond is now regarded as one of the foremost trans artists in the United States. In the last few years, v has been recording music and performing in cabarets and writing books and wearing amazing fashion and just generally being an uncategorizable sorcerer of mystery and music. (*On the Boards*, 8 pm, \$75/\$100.) **CHRISTOPHER FRIZZELLE**



TAMMY SHELL

JUNE 21–22

Seattle Men’s Chorus: Summer of ‘69

Look, I didn’t live through 1969, but I’ve sure heard about that year my entire life. There was Woodstock and Vietnam. And, as you’ll be hearing about all Pride Month this year, there was Stonewall. It’s now been 50 years since the Stonewall uprising that is often credited as launching the modern gay-rights movement. The Seattle Men’s Chorus will celebrate the anniversary by singing through all that rebellion and change, featuring the year’s chart toppers and also introducing new musical theater work *Quiet No More*, about the Stonewall riots. (*Benaroya Hall*, \$31–\$84.) **CHASE BURNS**

JUNE 21–NOV 15

David Rue: ‘A Physical Homage’

David Rue, a dancer who “transmits the meta-physical and makes a person want to move” (according to former *Stranger* writer Jen Graves), has curated an incredible series of outdoor performances dedicated to AIDS activists and those who perished from the disease. The first iteration kicks off on June 21 and features Randy Ford, whose sheer range and talent has moved me to consistently call for someone to award her \$100,000 so that she may create work at her leisure. When Ford dances, she uses modern, bounce, vogue, and moves from genres I’ve never seen before to communicate maximum velocity, sharpness, and strength—all qualities shared by ACT UP and other activist groups fighting against the deafening and deadly silence of the US government. (*Capitol Hill Light Rail Station*, third Fri, 5:30 pm, free.) **RICH SMITH**

JUNE 28–29

Trenton Davis

Trenton Davis tackles the familiar comedic topics of marriage, race, parenthood, and insecurity about one’s genitalia. Guys, when your female

partner says your penis is “perfect,” do not interpret that as a compliment. He also laments the frequency of divorce in the United States. “Marriage is the only thing you do where the more you do it, the worse you get at it. America makes marriage too easy. You ought to have to get a degree in relationships before you get married.” And Davis’s bits about how women would act if they had dicks and how the lack of black Band-Aids represents the last bastion of racism are hysterical. (*Comedy Underground*, 8:30 and 10:30 pm, \$15–\$35.) **DAVE SEGAL**

CLOSING SAT JUNE 29

‘Mae West’s The Drag: A Homosexual Comedy in Three Acts’

When *The Drag* first opened in 1927, a reviewer for *Variety* apparently called it “an inexpressibly brutal and vulgar attempt to capitalize on a dirty matter for profit.” After only 10 performances, the play was shut down for “indecent.” So, in honor of indecency, in honor of the vulgar, and in honor of capitalizing on dirty matters, we must all go see this historical revival about a gay man named Rolly Kingsbury coming out in much more homophobic times (in America, at least), and then marvel at how far we’ve come, and how far we’ve yet to go. (*Gay City*, Fri–Sun, free –\$24.) **RICH SMITH**

CLOSING SUN JULY 7

‘Wicked’

Now is your chance to see the musical that, 16 years ago, made everyone remember musicals existed. You’ve heard the spiel—it’s the *Wizard of Oz*, except not boring, and sympathetic to the antagonist (the Wicked Witch of the West). *Wicked* is spectacular, especially if the cast you see has a Galinda (originally played by Kristin Chenoweth) with a lot of spunk. But, unfortunately for all of us, all of *Wicked* can’t be the bombastic, show-stopping “Defying Gravity.” And once “Defying Gravity” plays out and you’re absolutely sated, there’s a whole other act to sit through. *Wicked* is still good, and at some moments great. Especially if, unlike me, you haven’t seen it four times—or played a medley of the music in your middle-school wind ensemble. (*Paramount Theatre*, \$49+.) **NATHALIE GRAHAM**

MORE StrangerThingsToDo.com

Short List

Ask Me Another
Moore Theatre, Thurs
June 20, 7:30 pm,
\$46–\$56

Chelsea Handler: Life Will Be the Death of Me...and You Too!
Moore Theatre, Fri June 21,
8 pm, \$65–\$85 (sold out)

Don’t Call It a Riot!
12th Avenue Arts, Thurs–
Sun, \$25, through June 23

Esther Povitsky
Columbia City Theater,
Sat June 22, 7 pm, \$25
(sold out)

The Greatest ShowQueen
Unicorn, Sun, 6 pm, \$20,
through June 23

Kremwerk Complex Pride Week
Kremwerk, June 26–30,
\$50

Legend of El Dorado
Can Can, \$40–\$100,
through Sept 29

Seattle International Dance Festival
Broadway Performance
Hall, \$13–\$135, through
June 22

So You Think You Can Drag, Season 2
R Place, Wed, 8 pm, \$3,
through June 26

Take Me Out
12th Avenue Arts, Mon
and Fri–Sun, \$36, through
June 22

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The Elliott Bay Book Company



Ocean Vuong with Jess Boyd

On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous Penguin Press

Ocean Vuong’s *On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous* is a shatteringly beautiful debut novel. “Vuong runs up against the limits of language and expands our sense of what literature can make visible, thinkable, felt across borders and generations and genres. It is also a gorgeous argument for astonishment over irony—for the transformative possibilities of love.”—Ben Lerner

June 20, 7 pm, Central Seattle Public Library

Richard Blanco with Juan Alonso-Rodriguez

How To Love a Country: Poems Beacon Press

Cuban American poet Richard Blanco reads from his new collection *How to Love a Country: Poems*. “This new collection is vibrant, tragic, exhilarating, deeply in love with people and their stories and heartbreakingly engaged with our struggling nation. These are poems for every season, for large and small moments and very much for our time.” —Amy Bloom

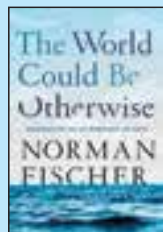
June 22, 7pm, The Elliott Bay Book Company

Norman Fischer

The World Could Be Otherwise: Imagination and the Bodhisattva Path Shambhala

Beloved Zen priest, poet and translator Norman Fischer speaks about his new book, *The World Could Be Otherwise: Imagination and the Bodhisattva Path*. “This book gives me hope. In times like these, when we cannot afford to indulge in hopelessness, Norman Fischer offers us a vision of the human imagination as a spiritual practice and a source of courage and love. Now, more than ever, we need his vision of ourselves and of the world.”—Ruth Ozeki

June 23, 3pm, The Elliott Bay Book Company



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The Forum at Town Hall
The famed writer's latest novel chronicles rising fascism.

LOUISE ARONSON

June 20, 7:30pm, \$5
The Forum at Town Hall
Redefining aging, transforming medicine, and reimagining life.

BACH TO BATES

June 21, 7:30pm, \$15-\$20
The Great Hall at Town Hall
Town Music's last concert of the season featuring Grammy Award winner Mason Bates.

ED LEVINE

June 26, 7:30pm, \$5
The Great Hall at Town Hall
A food lover's perilous quest for pizza and redemption.

CHARLES FISHMAN

June 28, 7:30pm, \$5
The Forum at Town Hall
A flight on America's impossible mission to the moon.

NADA BAKOS *

June 30, 7:30pm, \$5
The Forum at Town Hall
The life of a CIA terrorist hunter.



TOWNHALLSEATTLE.ORG

THINGS TO DO → Books & Talks

The Dream Delivery Service

Poet Mathias Svalina bikes around town dropping bags of dreams each day at dawn.

BY RICH SMITH

While you were sleeping, poet Mathias Svalina was pedaling his bicycle up and down Seattle's hills, dropping dreams at the doorsteps of subscribers to his Dream Delivery Service.

For 45 bucks, Svalina will write you a dream (or a nightmare!) every day for a month. Before dawn, he'll tuck the dream into a pink

DREAM DELIVERY SERVICE CELEBRATION WITH MATHIAS SVALINA
Sat June 29, Open Books, 7 pm, free

envelope and stick it between your door and the jamb, or maybe beneath a stone if you live in an apartment. Either way, you'll find a dream at your feet first thing in the morning.

Svalina has made a name for himself in the world of contemporary poetry, publishing a handful of books in the last few years. His writing delights—not at all academic, but not too light. Browsing a few recent examples, I laughed at one about a bearded dragon really embracing a new skin-care routine, and at another about a person mowing a field of folding chairs as an orchestra plays in the distance. The dreams he writes for animals, which are included with any pet-owning household's subscription, are hysterical.

Back in 2014, a college in Colorado where he was scheduled to teach canceled the class a few days before the semester started. With no way to pay rent, he came up with the Dream Delivery Service. After a few one-offs in Denver, which made the front page of the newspaper, he hopped on an old 1980s Raleigh he bought on Craigslist and started touring the country in 2016.

He lives a nomadic life, camping most places he goes. In Seattle, he's staying in the backyard of Shawn Landis and Jodi Rockwell, who run an artist residency in Madrona. Each morning he wakes at 3 a.m., hits the road by 3:30 a.m., and bikes a squiggly route to South Seattle, over to West Seattle, and



HAYDEN MAYNARD

then up to Shoreline. He covers more than 30 miles and does about 2,000 feet of elevation, he figures. He describes Seattle as the hilliest city he's ever biked.

"One thing I really like about this is biking around the city when it's in its ghost form," Svalina said over coffee at the end of a recent shift. "The dark blue glow of the predawn sky with the water and the downtown lights below, and these very arboreal hills everywhere, and that balance of quiet and big city that I get to spy on at those times."

Dreamy things happen to him when he's on the road. In Chicago, he saw two coyotes running through the street. Suddenly an

Uber driver pulled up behind him, rolled down his window, and asked if the animals that had just scurried away were horses. "One of my major regrets in life was telling him no," Svalina said.

Interested parties can sign up at dream-deliveryservice.com. The money he makes is not a lot to live on, but he's doing what he loves. "I realized the two things that make me happiest are writing weird shit all day long and being alone while biking long distances," he said. "Even if things kind of suck, at least I'm doing two things that make me happy."

And one thing that makes other people happy, too. ■

Top Picks

THURS JUNE 20

Ocean Vuong: 'On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous'

When Ocean Vuong toured with his recent collection of poetry, *Night Sky with Exit Wounds*, his powerful readings would turn roomfuls of cynical adults into crying children. His use of cinematic imagery in poetry was enthralling. The gentle intensity of his reading style was mesmerizing. And though he was writing about all the old subjects (loneliness, family, pain), every poem seemed fresh and alive. Expect similar results with his first foray into fiction, *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*, about a son writing a letter to his

illiterate mother and a fictional extension of the incredible personal essay he published in the *New Yorker*, "A Letter to My Mother That She Will Never Read." Vuong's mother couldn't read, but he expresses himself best through writing. The piece explores the ways in which language shapes our identities and limits (or enhances) our ability to communicate. "I am writing because they told me to never start a sentence with because. But I wasn't trying to make a sentence—I was trying to break free," he writes. (Central Library, 7 pm, free.) **RICH SMITH**

JUNE 21 & JUNE 27

Frederick L. Brown: 'The City Is More Than Human'

Instead of focusing on great men, great women, great artists, or great whomever, UW historian

Frederick Brown focuses his history of Seattle on animals. In *The City Is More Than Human*, Brown looks at the way the relationship between people and animals shaped the city, from the days of livestock and imperialism to the time of pets in grocery stores. As far as I can tell, all other books about Seattle's past focus on brothels and vice lords. Brown's angle should delight old mossbacks who think they've heard it all, but also people who hang with their Shiba Inu at Dogwood Play Park and Bar. (June 21, Elliott Bay Book Company, 7 pm, free; June 27, University Book Store, 6 pm, free.) **RICH SMITH**



EMILY ALLEN

THURS JUNE 27

Chronicles of the Pike Place Market and Prohibition-Era Seattle

Pike Place Podcast host Jerry Antush and producer Bob Trombley will interview local historian Brad Holden about his fantastic new book, *Seattle Prohibition: Bootleggers,*



COURTESY OF ARCADIA PUBLISHING

Rumrunners & Graft in the Queen City. The book chronicles the early wars between the city's vice lords and buzzkills, shedding light on the undersung adventures of people such as Johnny Schnarr (a badass rumrunner), Frank Gatt (a bootlegger who stored his massive copper stills in dairy barns to hide the smell), and William Whitney (of the Seattle Prohibition Bureau, who was tasked with shutting all this down). (Folio: *The Seattle Athenaeum*, 7 pm, \$10.) **RICH SMITH**

Walt Odets: 'Out of the Shadows'

Love won, right? Not exactly, argues clinical psychologist Walt Odets in his new book, *Out of the Shadows*, which the *New York Times* describes as "part polemic, part memoir, and part road map for gay people hoping to live fully." Odets watched his friends and patients die during the AIDS crisis, and now he watches survivors of the plague continue to suffer from the lingering psychological effects of intense stigmatization in the face of claims that we're living in a "post-homophobic society." Focusing on gay men specifically, Odets finds increasing isolation and generational friction, as well as a constant struggle with a society that continues to pathologize them. Though the *Times* thinks Odets's solutions to these problems are a bit pat and dated, the memoir sections read with "aching" beauty and poignancy. (Town Hall, 7:30 pm, \$5.) **RICH SMITH**

FRI JUNE 28

Dobby Gibson and Zachary Schomburg

Portland poet Zachary Schomburg, who combines narrative techniques with surrealism to great effect, heads north with a new book from Black Ocean called *Pulver Maar (Poems 2014–2018)*. The title references the name of a crater lake in Germany, where many of these poems may have originated. The subtitle portends goodness; all books should just be a collection of poems the poet has written over the last four years. Schomburg will be joined by Dobby Gibson, a chatty poet who uses humor and associative logic to leap down the page. His latest is *Polar*. Expect a night of unexpected laughter. (Open Books, 7 pm, free.) **RICH SMITH**

MORE StrangerThingsToDo.com

Short List

Elizabeth Hand
Hugo House, Tues June 25,
7 pm, free

Esi Edugyan:
Washington Black
University Book Store, Fri
June 28, 6 pm, free

The Moth Seattle
GrandSLAM
Town Hall, Thurs June 27,
8 pm, \$25

Rae Armantrout and
Ron Silliman
Open Books, Sun June 23,
5 pm, free

Silent Reading Party
Hotel Sorrento, Wed
July 3, 6 pm, free

Stephen Graham Jones
University Book Store,
Tues July 2, 7 pm, free

The Story Collider
The Royal Room, Tues
June 25, 7:30 pm, \$12/\$15

Thom Hartmann: The
Hidden History of
Guns and the Second
Amendment
Town Hall, Sun June 23,
7:30 pm, \$5

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VALERIE JUNE AUGUST 18 8:00PM	THE GET UP KIDS with Cloud Nothings, The Whiffs SEPTEMBER 7 8:00PM	POLO & PAN SEPTEMBER 24 8:00PM	MARC REBILLET OCTOBER 1 8:00PM
THE GROWLERS OCTOBER 5 + 6 9:00PM/8:00PM	STIFF LITTLE FINGERS with The Avengers OCTOBER 8 8:00PM	MARIBOU STATE OCTOBER 11 9:00PM	INGRID MICHAELSON OCTOBER 12 9:00PM
CAVETOWN OCTOBER 16 7:30PM	CARAVAN PALACE OCTOBER 17 8:30PM	DINOSAUR JR. with Steve Gunn OCTOBER 23 8:30PM	MUMIY TROLL OCTOBER 27 8:30PM

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JOJO SIWA with The Belles AUGUST 18 MARYMOOR PARK	LIONEL RICHIE AUGUST 20 MARYMOOR PARK	MAGGIE ROGERS with Now, Now SEPTEMBER 14 WAMU THEATER	DROPKICK MURPHYS + CLUTCH with Russ Rankin of Good Riddance OCTOBER 15 WAMU THEATER

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THINGS TO DO → Music

The Maestro of Weird and Rock's Favored Son

The Claypool Lennon Delirium spread good cheer and trippy sounds.

BY LEILANI POLK

When you review their respective strengths, sounds, talents, and steampunk-inspired fashion sense, Les Claypool and Sean Lennon are a perfect match.

Claypool is the elder statesman of weird music. The charmingly eccentric bass maestro who fronts Primus is also a solo artist, leader or co-collaborator in Frog Brigade, Colonel Claypool's Bucket of Bernie Brains, etc., and a savvy guest for Tom Waits and Adrian Belew, among others. He's also a showman to the nth degree, a force of seemingly offhand instrumental wizardry who executes both earnest and entertaining maneuvers amid cheeky chattiness.

Sean Lennon is the legacy of John and Yoko made flesh with an impressive 25-year career in his own right. In some ways, he takes after his dad—deft use of melody, sweetly emotive vocal quality, poignant turn of lyric, familial resemblance—but his mom, too, in his quirky composition style. At the same time, he's thoroughly informed by modern psychedelic sounds and his own collaborations and experiences, with musical projects ranging from the Shibuya-kei-informed alterna pop of Cibo Matto to proggy instrumental Mystical Weapons with Deerhoof's Greg Saunier to his trippy, enchanting folk-pop band with girlfriend/collaborator Charlotte Kemp Muhl, the Ghost of a Saber Tooth Tiger (the GOASTT). And he's pro-



A couple of fun guys: Sean Lennon and Les Claypool.

duced or worked with a broad swath of artists—John Zorn, Lana Del Rey, Black Lips, Deltron 3030, Lady Gaga.

Lennon and Claypool first discussed collaborating in 2015 when the GOASTT were supporting Primus on a summer tour. *Mono-*

lith of Phobos—the Claypool Lennon Delirium's cosmic full-length debut—followed in 2016, as did a run of dates that revealed their complementary skills extended beyond the studio. Claypool's slapping, bumping, plucking, and bowing of his low-end arsenal and

speak-singing in nasally intones proved a perfect foil to Lennon's bright, dulcet piping, and soloing and experimenting on an arsenal of axes.

This year's *South of Reality* feels like a lushly layered psychedelic and space-prog rock opus at a mere nine songs and 47 minutes. Its maelstrom of time-signature-altering and key-shifting styles varies between sinister chugging and loftier whirling and swirling vibrancy, all of it encapsulated in the sprawling "Blood and Rockets: Movement I, Saga of Jack Parsons / Movement II, Too the Moon." Its first part is built on a theme of bouncy bopping bass and warped ringing guitar that climbs and winds to sparkling trippiness before ushering in the brilliant Beatles-esque second part—a swirling descent of picked string melodies and ghostly vocal harmonies chanting verses like "Do what thou wilt" and "Love is the law" and "Fly me to the moon" that close on a wailing guitar riff and wash of instrumentals.

According to press materials, *South of Reality* is "an expression of our upside-down times, offering listeners both an escape from modern chaos and a filter through which to embrace it." Lennon has described it as "the soundtrack to the demise of the world as we knew it." It's dazzling escapism with veiled social and political references. Most importantly, it's another fine outing from two offbeat geniuses creatively juicing and jiving and coming together in a harmony of earthy funkiness and soaring spaciness. ■

Top Picks

THURS JUNE 20

Anderson .Paak & the Free Nationals, Earl Sweatshirt, Thundercat

HIP-HOP/RAP This bill is stacked. At the top is the current darling of hip-hop/soul/R&B crossover (and among my current faves), Anderson .Paak. He's got that warm, sandpapery rasp of soulful greats like James Brown or Wilson Pickett, but in a higher register, and he's more prone to slick rhyme-slinging and swinging amid the singing. Last year's *Oxnard* was one of my favorites of 2018 ("Who R U" and "Mansa Musa" are bangers), while just-dropped fourth album *Ventura* is great, too, heavier on the Motown feel compared to *Oxnard*'s distinct hip-hop swagger. Live, the multi-instrumentalist Paak leaves the playing to his tight-ass band, the Free Nationals, though he sometimes jumps on drums. Fusion bass master Thundercat is another favorite, his creamy, falsetto-reaching vocals set against an intriguingly idiosyncratic mix of funk, acid jazz, neo-soul, electro, and R&B. He is

toight. Not so much a fan of Odd Future collective rapper Earl Sweatshirt, but the kids sure do dig his lethargic, monotone, off-the-beat style, so who am I to judge? (WaMu Theater, 7:30 pm, all ages, \$66.) LEILANI POLK

The Comet Is Coming, J-Justice

ELECTRONIC Another iteration of ascending London saxophonist/clarinetist Shabaka Hutchings's fertile imagination, the Comet Is Coming—which also features Ibibio Sound Machine producer/key-boardist Dan Leavers and Sons of Kemet drummer Maxwell Hallett—have been injecting jazz with vital mutant energies for the past four years. As with a lot of releases on the International Anthem label and those by fellow Brits the Heliocentrics, the Comet Is Coming's output unconventionally fuses jazz with electronic, funk, Afrobeat, post-rock, and hip-hop elements. The title of their two transcendent albums—*Channel the Spirits* and *Trust in the Life Force of the Deep Mystery*—could serve both as the Comet Is Coming's MO and manifesto. This could be the show of the month. (*Barboza*, 8 pm, \$17/\$20.) DAVE SEGAL

Select Level, Spesh, Aesthetic Mess

ROCK/POP Select Level is where drummer Andy Sells forgoes the cerebral improvisational convolutions of his other group, the magnificent Afrocop, and dips into yacht-funk and glam-disco hedonism. Singing with a breathy savoir faire, Sells straps on his bass and tickles his keyboards—along with Afrocop bandmate Noel Brass Jr. and other top Seattle musicians—to create songs that beckon you to the dance floor and the boudoir with a suavity that splits the difference between Siren-era Roxy Music and the Sea and Cake at their swankest. This is the release party for Select Level's buoyant self-titled debut album, which should be soundtracking parties all summer. (*Clock-Out Lounge*, 9 pm, \$10/\$12.) DAVE SEGAL

FRI JUNE 21

Research: Octo Octa, Physical Therapy

DJ Seattle can't get enough of Octo Octa (aka New Hampshire producer/DJ Maya Bouldry-Morrison)

as she makes frequent stops at our city's electronic-music mecca, Kremwerk, to flaunt her vibrant, eclectic dance music. On the decks, she's a skilled selector of high-quality, sensuous house music, while live she heads into more challenging territory. In Octo Octa's productions, sumptuously dreamy atmospheres coexist with complex beat science, giving equal weight to dance-floor imperatives and emotional resonance. Check out 2019's sublimely vaporous "I Need You" for exemplary proof. (*Kremwerk*, 10 pm–4 am, \$12/\$20.) DAVE SEGAL

Wonder-Full: A Tribute to the Wonder of Stevie

DANCE During his 1960s and '70s peak, Motown superstar Stevie Wonder infused soul, R&B, and funk with melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic complexities while still appealing to millions, filling dance floors and enhancing romantic scenarios. The world has been basking in his audacious innovations—aided by the synthesizer/production wizardry of Tonto's Expanding Head Band members Robert Margoullef and Malcolm Cecil—for more than 50 years. And the appreciation continues with this night helmed by DJs Spinna



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mae featuring jj jones and joe
stevens w/ opener katie kuffel

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FRI/JULY 5 • 8PM
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THINGS TO DO → Music



ANDRA CHITIMUS

and Supreme La Rock. You can expect to hear dozens of Stevie hits and—let's hope—deep cuts such as the mutant-disco oddity "Race Babbling," the fusion ripper "Contusion," and the spectral ballad "Black Maybe," written for the great vocalist Syreeta. (*Neumos*, 9 pm, \$10–\$20.) **DAVE SEGAL**

Wu-Tang Clan

HIP-HOP/RAP Wu-Tang Clan concluded the most important and innovative period of hip-hop that began with Run-DMC's 1984 eponymous debut. That movement—which also includes albums by Eric B. and Rakim, Public Enemy, NWA, Pete Rock & CL Smooth, and Gang Starr—closed in 1997 with Wu-Tang Clan's "Triumph"/*Wu-Tang Forever*. After that, hip-hop innovation went either downhill or into the underground. If Wu-Tang Clan had appeared in the first decade of the present millennium, their commercial success would have been that of LA's Lootpack—mad-innovative but with no mass appeal/appreciation. Wu-Tang Clan represent a moment in hip-hop when black genius was rewarded as much as black stupidity. Those days exist, sadly, only in the past. (*WaMu Theater*, 8 pm, all ages, \$117.) **CHARLES MUDEDE**

SAT JUNE 22



HANLY BANKS

Bill Callahan

BLUES/COUNTRY/FOLK Bill Callahan has a deep, warm, gentle baritone that feels like a cozy sweater curling around your consciousness, and his stripped-bare folk songwriting is acoustic-guitar-driven relaxation. You just want to snuggle up in it and take a siesta. He's been around a real long time, formerly performing under the Smog moniker (you've heard "Cold Blooded Old Times"—it was tapped in the *High Fidelity* soundtrack), until re-assuming his given name with 2007's *Woke on a Whaleheart*. This tour falls behind his new Drag City full-length and 17th studio outing overall, *Shepherd in a Sheepskin Vest*. (*Neptune Theatre*, 8 pm, all ages, \$29.) **LEILANI POLK**

Dave B, Jak Knight, U Moore

HIP-HOP/RAP Listen, y'all, Dave B is good—really fucking good. Hailing from Renton, the rapper won MoPOP's Sound Off! competition in 2013, performed Macklemore's hit "Corner Store" alongside Travis Thompson on *The Tonight Show* in 2017,



LEA GODDY

and dropped a new album in June called *Bleu*. Dave B's third LP finds the rapper doubling down on what makes him such a standout: witty lyrics, a flow that alternates between soulful singing and incisive rapping, and excellent production. Be sure to listen to "CPU LUV," a funny rumination on love in the digital age. He'll be joined by Seattle-born, LA-based comedian Jak Knight. (*The Showbox*, 9 pm, all ages, \$25/\$30.) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

JUNE 20 & JUNE 22–23

Ludovic Morlot Conducts Debussy

CLASSICAL/OPERA This is your last chance to see Ludovic Morlot conducting live onstage at Benaroya Hall, at least in his capacity as Seattle Symphony's music director. Couldn't ask for better exit music, though. As a French conductor whose intellectual/artistic lineage traces back to Debussy, Morlot is the only person I ever want to hear painting with the watery colors of the French composer's *Nocturnes*. The evening also features a composition from Leoš Janáček called *The Eternal Gospel*. The dramatic piece is shot through with golden moments of pastoral tranquility. The Northwest Boychoir will join the Seattle Symphony and the Seattle Symphony Chorus onstage for different parts of the party. (*Benaroya Hall*, \$22–\$130.) **RICH SMITH**

SUN JUNE 23

The Messthetics, Hurry Up, Time Pieces

METAL/PUNK Fugazi's rhythm section—bassist Joe Lally and drummer Brendan Canty—compose two-thirds of the Messthetics. Now that I have your attention, you need to know that the DC trio's



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THINGS TO DO → Music

self-titled 2018 debut album instantly asserted itself as one of the greatest releases in Dischord Records' storied history. Bolstered by the fiery, intricate riffing of jazz/experimental guitarist Anthony Pirog, the Messthetics mostly purvey whirlwindy math-rock instrumentals that'll have you banging your head in 7/4 time—although “Your Own World” and “The Inner Ocean” are slowcore beauties. These guys transmute Fugazi's anthemic energy into more cerebral, but no less intense, expressions of rock bravado, sans the declamatory vocals. (*Vera Project*, 7 pm, all ages, \$12/\$14.) **DAVE SEGAL**

MON JUNE 24

Grapetooth, James Swanberg

ROCK/POP Chicago duo Grapetooth is made up of Chris Bailoni and Clay Frankel, whose other gig is indie band Twin Peaks. This project is distinct from their previous work—less slacker-rock and more folky and new wavey with bubbly synths. Grapetooth's music is a blend of corny and often frustrating sounds. “Red Wine” plays like a jingle for a rejected united Colors of Benetton commercial. But “Trouble” devolves into so much noise that it doesn't as much burst at the seams as it does rip them. Chicago singer-songwriter/rocker James Swanberg supports. (*Chop Suey*, 7 pm, \$15.) **JASMINE KEIMIG**

The Wedding Funeral, Poltersleep, Witch Wives

BLUES/COUNTRY/FOLK Whoa! For a Monday, this looks like a Friday kind of lineup. Locals Witch Wives will be up first, and honestly I have no idea what they'll bring, but it'll be dark. “All synths no computers” Poltersleep will then be dialing it in with his exceptionally on point '80s soundtrack style. I have to give it to him, he nails it, even on song titles. As for the Wedding Funeral, they're something like a folk duo, but not like, uh, Simon and Garfunkel. Rather, they fuse deep, dark bat-cave creepiness onto their acoustic guitar picking and open-throat howls. (*Substation*, 8 pm, all ages, \$8.) **MIKE NIPPER**

TUES JUNE 25

Sinkane, JusMoni

ROCK/POP Sudanese American musician Ahmed Gallab has a silky, higher-toned vocal, subtly fine guitar chops, and music that breezily spans across genres—rooted in grooving, easygoing Afro rock and Sudanese pop, and dosed with elements of electro, krautrock, prog, and funk. As Sinkane—interchangeably Gallab's performance moniker and the name of his band—he sings in English and Arabic (check out the fantastic “U'Huh”) in songs that showcase his cascading guitar harmonies and generally jubilant lyrical outlook. He's said that most of his music is based on his life, and this year's *Dépaysé* is too, but on a deeper level than usual. According to a letter issued with its release, it's “the story of an immigrant's journey of self-discovery in the Trump era.” (*Tractor Tavern*, 8 pm, \$17.) **LEILANI POLK**

WED JUNE 26

AP: Kedr Livanskiy, Slowfoam, 'nohup'

ELECTRONIC Moscow's Kedr Livanskiy makes slightly left-field electro-pop enlivened by her dulcet, glazed vocals. Her latest album, *Your Need*, abounds with richly melodic songs that flirt with 1980s synthwave rhythms, atmospheres, and timbres while still sounding of this decade. Her

local support acts skew toward the less accessible. ‘Nohup’ (aka ‘sighup,’ aka Coldbrew Collective visual artist Bobby Azarbayejani) ranks as one of Seattle's most unpredictable and interesting producers, capable of busting out bass-intensive techno, jittery footwork, club music shot through with non-Western religious chants, and more. Slowfoam (Madelyn Byrd) incorporates field recordings to create unconventional electronic music that casts enigmatic spells and transports you to exotic netherzones, as evidenced by her intriguing 2018 album *Important Bodies*. (*Timbre Room*, 8 pm, \$12.) **DAVE SEGAL**



COURTESY OF JAMILA WOODS

Jamila Woods

SOUL/R&B Pitchfork likens Jamila Woods's work on 2019 sophomore album *LEGACY! LEGACY!* to that of Nina Simone for its incisive political commentary and deep introspection. “The result is an album full of wordplay, anger, and wry humor.” I don't know about all that—but I do know that Woods has talent in spades, a Brown-educated poet who turned her knack for playing with words into a musical career without actually abandoning her career in poetry. Her vocals are sultry, and her sound is neo-soul with a healthy hip-hop sensibility, which might be the influence of frequent collaborator Chance the Rapper, who gets some credit for her break. Her guest spot on infectious 2015 single “Sunday Candy” (from Donnie Trumpet and the Social Experiment, Chance's project with Nico Segal) earned her some fine national shine. A record deal came shortly after. (*Crocodile*, 7 pm, all ages, \$60.) **LEILANI POLK**

Shlohmo

ELECTRONIC It's interesting to see how electronic-music wunderkinds evolve over a decade after their initial burst of inspiration, and Shlohmo (LA producer Henry Laufer) definitely qualifies as one. His early work had some predicting he'd be on the level of Flying Lotus and Prefuse 73 for brazen, whiplash rhythmic and textural moves. However, Shlohmo's more recent releases have scaled back on the adventurousness and added a more accessible sheen. That being said, the melodious, IDM-leaning LP *The End* proves he still possesses grand ambitions. Nonetheless, for an underground electronic music artist to play a club the size of Neumos suggests that Shlohmo's doing something right. (*Neumos*, 8 pm, all ages, \$20/\$25.) **DAVE SEGAL**

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TUE 6/25

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WED 6/26

HIGHEST OF HEELS • IN AISLE EIGHT • HI WASTED

THU 6/27

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SAT 6/29

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SUN 6/30

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MON 7/1

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6/21 FRIDAY		The Crocodile Presents: Cherry Poppin' Daddies 21 & Over
6/22 SATURDAY		The Crocodile Presents: Charly Bliss - Young Enough Tour Emily Reo All Ages
6/23 SUNDAY		The Crocodile Presents: The Rural Alberta Advantage @ Chop Suey Henry Mansfield 21 & Over
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NEUMOS



SATURDAY 6/22
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DEHD



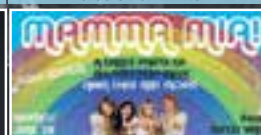
SATURDAY 6/22
MATERIAL WORLD
A NIGHT OF MADONNA
& 80'S POP DIVAS



WEDNESDAY 6/26
SHLOHMO



THURSDAY 6/27
MYSTERY SKULLS
PHANGS + SNOWBLOOD



FRIDAY 6/28
MAMMA MIA!
70'S POP MUSIC DANCE PARTY



SATURDAY 6/29
THANK U, NEXT
DANGEROUS WOMEN OF
POP DANCE PARTY



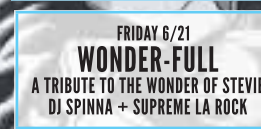
SUNDAY 6/30
REMO DRIVE
SLOW PULP + HEART TO GOLD



WEDNESDAY 7/3
PRIESTS
SONS OF AN ILLUSTRIOUS FATHER



FRIDAY 7/5
SIR MIX-A-LOT
G.A.S.
(GRYNCH, JESÚS SPADES & STEFO)



FRIDAY 6/21
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A TRIBUTE TO THE WONDER OF STEVIE
DJ SPINNA + SUPREME LA ROCK



SATURDAY 7/6
ELECTRIC SIX
KYLE SHUTT



SATURDAY 7/6
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OF CAPITOL HILL**
90'S HIP HOP DANCE PARTY



THURSDAY 7/11
GREYSON CHANCE



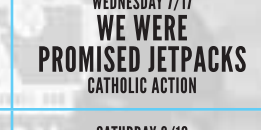
FRIDAY 7/12
THE BGP
JAMES REDFERN



FRIDAY 7/12
JUSTIN VS. JUSTIN
DANCE PARTY
CELEBRATING JT & BIEBER



SATURDAY 7/13
**THE HAWKINS
SNOW BALL**
STRANGER THINGS SEASON 3 EDITION



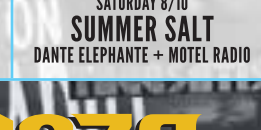
WEDNESDAY 7/17
**WE WERE
PROMISED JETPACKS**
CATHOLIC ACTION



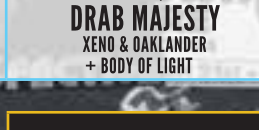
SATURDAY 7/27
BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY
QUEEN INSPIRED DANCE PARTY



THURSDAY 8/1
MIYA FOLICK



SATURDAY 8/10
SUMMER SALT
DANTE ELEPHANTE + MOTEL RADIO



MONDAY 8/26
DRAB MAJESTY
XENO & OAKLANDER
+ BODY OF LIGHT

BARBOZA

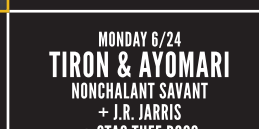
THURSDAY 6/20
THE COMET IS COMING



FRIDAY 6/21
THE TWO TIDES
BUG HUNTER
+ JESSIE THORESON



SATURDAY 6/22
**ERIN RAE &
THE HEARTBEATS**
JAMES ANAYA & THE CURRENT
+ HARRISON B



MONDAY 6/24
TIRON & AYOMARI
NONCHALANT SAVANT
+ J.R. JARRIS
+ STAS THEE BOSS



THURSDAY 6/27
JULIA SHAPIRO
JOHN ATKINS



FRIDAY 6/28
DOT COMET
LOVELY COLOURS + PUBLIC POOL



SATURDAY 6/29
BASINS
CAMP CRUSH



SUNDAY 6/30
VAN HUNT



WEDNESDAY 7/3
BIDDIDAT
ECLECTRICK + I///U



FRIDAY 7/5
WHALIEN
BRAINARD + ELVIS BATCHILD



SATURDAY 7/6
THUNDERS OF WRATH
THE EARLY WARNINGS + TIGER RIDER



WEDNESDAY 7/10
ALVARIUS B
(ALAN BISHOP OF SUN CITY GIRLS)
THE INVISIBLE HANDS



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THINGS TO DO → Music



Julia Shapiro
Thurs June 27 at Barboza

ELEANOR PETRY

THURS JUNE 27
Julia Shapiro, John Atkins

ROCK/POP Julia Shapiro of Chastity Belt fame is dropping her solo debut, *Perfect Version*, this summer on Hardly Art. The record arrives about a year after Shapiro took a break from touring due to some health issues and heartbreak. In an interview with the *Fader*, she said the album just happened: “It didn’t really feel like a decision. I started recording stuff in my apartment just for fun. I wanted to learn how to use Ableton.” Shapiro’s solo songs are definitely a departure from the upbeat, quasi party tunes of Chastity Belt—the lyrics and music are much quieter, intimate, and introspective. (*Barboza*, 8 pm, \$15.) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

Piss Drunks, Speed Wobble, Value Ape, Oil Can

METAL/PUNK Now this is my kind of show: leather, bristles, studs... um, gray hairs, dodgy knees, and bald spots!!! It’s all punk all night, y’all, starting with Oil Can, who’ll be bang-clanging out solid, sometimes melodic, late-’80s-style punk. Then Value Ape, very good-looking noise punters who’re still riding a wave of massive success after having just released their first album. And finally Piss Drunks, who are keeping them ’80s snotty punk embers stoked. And that’s just the local yobs! Sandwiched in there too is San Francisco’s Speed Wobble, who thrash, who trash, and tho they do wobble, never crash!! (*The Funhouse*, 9 pm, \$6/\$8.) **MIKE NIPPER**

JUNE 27–29

‘Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back’ in Concert

CLASSICAL/OPERA If you do not know who John Williams is, do not bother reading what I have to say about him in this blurb. John Williams’s greatest achievement as a film composer is his love theme “Han Solo and the Princess” for Han and Leia in *The Empire Strikes Back*. (You, the pop-culture ignoramus, are still reading! Yes, Williams composed the music for the *Star Wars* series, and also *Jaws*, *Indiana Jones*, and so on, and so on.) This love theme has all of the sensitivity and cheap beauty that made “Spartacus: Love Theme” a jazz standard. If the great jazz pianist Bill Evans were alive today (why don’t some people live forever?), he would have made pure magic

out of Williams’s “Love Theme.” (*Benaroya Hall*, \$37–\$210.) **CHARLES MUDEDE**

FRI JUNE 28

Jeff Lynne’s ELO, Dhani Harrison

ROCK/POP Dang, y’all, goddamn Jeff Lynne’s Electric Light Orchestra is (finally) playin’ the Pacific Northwest!!! If you have any musical taste in genius pop music, I’ll assume YOU ALREADY HAVE TICKETS. But if you need context, ELO was a huge, like massive, Top 40 band in the 1970s and early ’80s (see: “Mr. Blue Sky,” “Don’t Bring Me Down”). ELO started when Lynne (once a principal member of psych-pop group the Idle Race) partnered with Roy Wood and Bev Bevan from the Move, and took their side project of basically using only cellos and violins to craft orchestral progressive pop albums and rode it to stardom. (*Tacoma Dome*, 8 pm, \$50–\$699.) **MIKE NIPPER**

JUNE 28–30

Queer Bar’s Queer/Pride Festival

DJ Queer Bar’s three-day Pride party features go-go performers, DJs, a celebrity guest (Carson Kressley, one of the original *Queer Eye* guys, currently a *RuPaul’s Drag Race* judge), drag and performance artists (including *Drag Race* finalists), and live music by some very special guests. LGBTQ icon and New Orleans–brewed “Queen of Bounce” Big Freedia headlines the festivities with big, booming hip-hop that finds her shouting over rapid-fire beats and engaging in nasty, call-and-response lyrics, all of it whirring to a loud, make-ya-ass-shake climax (see: “Booty-Whop”), or segueing directly into her next banger. Grammy-winning breathy-sweet R&B songbird and *Dancing with the Stars* alum Mýa is also on the bill. You know her from (1) the 2008 “Lady Marmalade” redux (with Pink, Christina Aguilera, and Lil’ Kim); (2) “Case of the Ex (Whatcha Gonna Do),” a 2000-era jam about a creeper ex-girlfriend; and (3) “Best of Me, Part 2,” that sexy grooving hip-hop joint with Jay Z circa 2000 (it was a good year for Mýa). Seattle pop maker Left at London, ethereal rapper DoNormaal, and surrealist drag band the Loungettes also perform. A portion of the ticket proceeds go to nonprofit group OutRight Action International, which fights for the safety, dignity, freedom and equality of LGBTQ people around the world. (*Queer Bar*, \$30–\$199.) **LEILANI POLK**



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Wednesday 7/17
TX SOUL
GREYHOUNDS
STAR CRUSHER
9PM \$15/\$17

Sunday 6/30
ALT-COUNTRY ROCK
AMERICAN AQUARIUM
BRANDY ZDAN
8PM \$15/\$17

Thursday 7/18
RED DIRT COUNTRY
JASON BOLAND & THE STRAGGLERS
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8PM \$20



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THINGS TO DO → Music



Big Freedia
Sun June 30 at Queer Bar's Queer/Pride Festival

COURTESY OF QUEER BAR

SAT JUNE 29

VR Sex, Prettiest Eyes

ROCK/POP Led by Drab Majesty's Andrew Clinco (aka Noel Skum), Los Angeles trio VR Sex exist at the intersection of minimal wave and goth-leaning, post-punk resurrection. It's a common approach in the second decade of the 21st century, and the songs on VR Sex's new *Human Traffic Jam* album hit you like draughts of smoggy air from above a clogged LA highway. The guitar sounds like an aerated version of the corroded chimes ground out by Killing Joke's Geordie Walker and the Banshees' John McGeoch in those crucial British bands' early years. Prettiest Eyes churn in similar waters, but their attack is sparser and stealthier. The LA trio's new *Volume 3* LP stabs with stiletto precision, leveraging a cranky Von LMO/Brainiac-like aggression that leaves you pleasantly stunned. (*Chop Suey*, 6 pm, \$10/\$12.) **DAVE SEGAL**

Yonatan Gat & the Eastern Medicine Singers

ROCK/POP Among the under-sung musical migrants who've settled in the United States is avant-garde guitarist, composer, and band leader Yonatan Gat (formerly of Israeli garage rock band Monotonix). He experiments with the sounds of psychedelic rock, punk, free jazz, and world music of the likes you've probably never heard, against which he pits some truly heady, whimsical, gorgeous, or straight-up complex and compelling ax work. He's collaborated with Brian Chase (Yeah Yeah Yeahs), Thor Harris (Swans), Greg Saunier (Deerhoof) and, most recently, the Eastern Medicine Singers. With Gat, the Rhode Island-based band of Native American drummers, singers, and dancers create a sound that is somehow both ethereal and earthy. (*Clock-Out Lounge*, 9 pm, \$12/\$14.) **LEILANI POLK**

SUN JUNE 30

Ilhan Ersahin's Istanbul Sessions

JAZZ Longtime NYC-based Swedish-Turkish saxophonist Ilhan Ersahin's home stage is the club he opened on Manhattan's Lower East Side in 2002, Nublu. It's where many of his most fruitful collaborations were conceived and other projects, from Brazilian Girls to Wax Poetic, had their start.

Ersahin's style is rooted in jazz and world music, and his Istanbul Sessions—which include Alp Ersonmez on bass, Izzet Kizil on percussion, and drummer Turgut Alp Bekoglu—are “a combination of Ilhan's NYC/Nublu sound mixed with the sounds and spirits of young Istanbul.” Turkish scales, ambient beats, thumping percussives, jazz improv, and Ersahin's sax notes generally setting a haunting mood. (*The Royal Room*, 7 pm, 9:30 pm, all ages, \$20/\$25.) **LEILANI POLK**

Ivy Sole, Blossom, Parisalexa

SOUL/R&B The Femmetape Summer Tour features three R&B-pop singers on the come-up. Portland-based Blossom (who is originally from Trinidad and Tobago) makes groovy, breezy tunes about love that are equally influenced by funk and reggae. Ivy Sole, who calls Philly home, throws some rap and poetry into the mix, her deep and soulful voice providing a stable center for her chill, jazzy beats. And then there's Parisalexa, Seattle's very own, who's got singing chops that could best most musicians out there currently and knows how to work a crowd. It's a stacked lineup. (*Crocodile*, 7 pm, all ages, \$18/\$20.) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

WED JULY 3

Priests, Sons of an Illustrious Father

ROCK/POP Fresh off the release of their second album, *The Seduction of Kansas*, the post-punk band from the other Washington is rolling through town, ready to fuck shit up. Priests' latest record marks a new and interesting direction for the band, which almost fell apart in 2017 after their bassist left to focus on his other band during the tour in support of their first full length, *Nothing Feels Natural*. *The Seduction of Kansas* is both brash and sexy, heavily political with a new wave sensibility about it. “Jesus' Son” is searing, with G.L. Jaguar's guitar cutting right to the heart of the track and Katie Alice Greer's vocals chaotically soaring over it all. It'll be a night of good fun. (*Neumos*, 8 pm, \$15.)

JASMYNE KEIMIG

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8/15	el Colonel
8/22	TBD
8/29	John Greyhound Maxwell

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THINGS TO DO → Music

Short List

Bill Frizell Trio with Tony Scherr and Kenny Wollesen

Jazz Alley, June 27-30, all ages, \$32.50

Ceremony, Sheer Mag, Bugg

Crocodile, Mon June 24, 7 pm, all ages, \$15/\$18

Charly Bliss, Emily Reo

Crocodile, Sat June 22, 8 pm, all ages, \$15

David Gray

McCaw Hall, Sat June 22, 8 pm, \$40-\$80

Dido, Ria Mae

Showbox Sodo, Sun June 30, 8 pm, all ages, \$49

Donny McCaslin

Triple Door, Thurs June 20, 7:30 pm, all ages, \$30-\$40

Earshot Jazz Presents: The Amina Figarova Sextet

The Royal Room, June 26, 8 pm, \$15

The Felice Brothers, Johnathan Rice

Tractor Tavern, Sat June 22, 9 pm, \$18

Futurebirds, Balto

Sunset Tavern, Tues June 25, 8:30 pm, \$12

Greensky Bluegrass

Woodland Park Zoo North Meadow, Sun June 30, 6 pm, all ages, \$35-\$135

Jay Electronica

Nectar, Thurs June 27, 9 pm, \$25-\$95

Josh Ritter & The Royal City Band, Penny & Sparrow

Moore Theatre, Sun June 23, 7:30 pm, all ages, \$27-\$36

Judas Priest, Uriah Heep

ShoWare Center, Fri June 21, 7:30 pm, all ages, \$44-\$94

Kool Keith, GLENN, Bruce Leroy

Alma Mater Tacoma, Fri June 21, 8 pm, \$20/\$25

Lion Babe, Sebastian Mikael

Crocodile, Sun June 23, 8 pm, all ages, \$20/\$25

Lucinda Williams, Cass McCombs

Woodland Park Zoo North Meadow, Sun June 23, 5:30 pm, all ages, \$38

Lyle Lovett & His Large Band

Chateau Ste. Michelle, Fri June 28, 7 pm, \$48/\$78

Machine Gun Kelly, TM88

Showbox Sodo, Tues June 25, 8 pm, all ages, \$30/\$35

Nellie McKay

Triple Door, Wed June 26, 7:30 pm, all ages, \$25-\$35

Okkervil River, Christian Lee Hutson

Crocodile, Thurs June 20, 8 pm, all ages, \$25

Pride Is For Everyone

Grim's, June 29-30, 5 pm, \$130

Pride Kick Off with Moon Palace, MANiCA, Seaside Tryst

Chop Suey, Thurs June 27, 8 pm, \$8/\$10

PUP, Ratboys, Beach Bunny

The Showbox, Tues June 25, 9 pm, all ages, \$20

Rooney

Sunset Tavern, Sat June 22, 9 pm, \$20

Santana, The Doobie Brothers

White River Amphitheatre, Sat June 29, 7 pm, \$47-\$405

Sera Cahoone, Bryan John Appleby, Lana McMullen

Fremont Abbey Arts Center, Fri June 21, 7:30 pm, all ages, \$15/\$18

Soundgarden: Live From the Artist's Den

The Showbox, Sun June 23, 8 pm, \$40

Three Dog Night

Emerald Queen Casino, Sat June 22, 8:30 pm, \$30-\$45

Yeastayer, Oh, Rose

Neptune Theatre, Wed June 26, 8 pm, all ages, \$25

Ziggy Marley, Michael Franti & Spearhead

Chateau Ste. Michelle, June 21-22, 6:30 pm, \$55-\$80

Zion I, Slum Village, High Step Society

Nectar, June 26, 7 pm, \$18

Early Warnings

107.7 THE END SUMMER CAMP 2019 Marymoor Park, Sat Aug 10, 1 pm, \$50-\$200

TONY BENNETT, ANTONIA BENNETT Paramount Theatre, Sat Sept 7, 8 pm, \$31-\$121

BANKS, KEVIN GARRETT Showbox Sodo, Wed Sept 25, 9 pm, \$44-\$199

KATE TEMPEST The Showbox, Sun Sept 29, 8 pm, \$25/\$30

KISHI BASHI Showbox Sodo, Sun Oct 6, 8 pm, \$33

BIG K.R.I.T. Neptune Theatre, Sat Oct 12, 9 pm, \$24-\$150

DINOSAUR JR., STEVE GUNN The Showbox, Wed Oct 23, 8:30 pm, \$30/\$33

MATT AND KIM Showbox Sodo, Sat Nov 2, 8 pm, \$25-\$99

SLEATER-KINNEY Paramount Theatre, Sat Nov 23, 8 pm, \$34-\$39

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Thurs 6/20

LIVE MUSIC

★ A BLACK LODGE

Buildings, Haunted Horses, Marriage+Canter, Drose, 8 pm-12 am

★ A CHAPEL PERFORMANCE

SPACE SIMF: Improvised Dance + Music, 8 pm, \$5-\$15

CHOP SUEY Mini Mansions, Alexandra Savior, 8 pm, \$15/\$18

CONOR BYRNE Fort Vine, MAITA, Charles Wicklander, 8 pm, \$8

★ THE CROCODILE BACK

BAR Melanie Taylor, Andrea Desmond, Payge Turner, 6 pm, \$7

LUCKY LIQUOR Thou Shall Kill, Dischordia, Kenaima, 9 pm-2 am, \$10

★ NECTAR World Refugee Day Celebration with Ayron Jones, Ethan Tucker, Whitney Monge, Naomi Wachira, 8 pm, \$13-\$19

★ NEPTUNE THEATRE

Anberlin, I The Mighty, 8 pm, \$31/\$34

★ THE ROYAL ROOM Great Women of Country Tribute Series: The Music of Patsy Cline & Linda Ronstadt, 6:30 pm, 9 pm, \$12

★ SEAMONSTER LOUNGE

Singer Sargent, 8-9:30 pm, free

SUBSTATION CHRCH, Isenordal, Arkheron Thodol, Eye of Nix, 8:30 pm, \$10/\$15

TRACTOR TAVERN

Motus, Caveman Ego, Swingset, 8 pm-12 am, \$10

DJ/DANCE

MONKEY LOFT Deck'd Out #1 Season Opening with The Black Madonna & Bottom Forty, 7 pm-1 am, \$25/\$30

Q NIGHTCLUB Field Trip 77: Rebuke, 9 pm-2 am, \$10

JAZZ

★ JAZZ ALLEY

Brian Culbertson, \$60

THE KNIFE ROOM Nardo's Jazz Lounge with Birch Pereira & The Gin Joints, 8-10:30 pm, \$12-\$17

TRIPLE DOOR MQ STAGE

VeZ Presents the Unhappy Hour, 5 pm, free

Fri 6/21

LIVE MUSIC

BLUE MOON TAVERN Glass Frames, Neither Bears Nor Forest, Jake's Meadow, Full Life Crisis, 9 pm, \$10

CLOCK-OUT LOUNGE Scott Yoder, Flying Fish Cove, Amethyst de Wolfe, 9 pm, \$10/\$12

★ COLUMBIA CITY THEATER Finn Andrews of the Veils, 9 pm, \$15

CONOR BYRNE The Resolectics, Gus Clark, Zack Orion, 9 pm, \$8/\$10

★ CROCODILE Cherry Poppin' Daddies, 8 pm, \$25

★ THE CROCODILE BACK BAR Ramonda Hammer, 10 pm, \$7

DARRELL'S TAVERN Tiger Rider, Always Naked, Fatal Butterfly, Beast Folk, 8 pm, \$8

THE FUNHOUSE The Holdup, Decent At Best, Ason Red, 8:30 pm, \$15-\$60

HIGH DIVE The Bones of J.R. Jones, Fruit Juice, Asterhouse, 9 pm, \$10/\$12

★ LO-FI Malaikat Dan Singa, Afrocop, Ubuludu, 9 pm, \$10/\$12

NECTAR Alejandro Escovedo, Scott Law, 7:30 pm, \$22-\$26

NEPTUNE THEATRE La Santa Cecilia, 8 pm, \$34

OWL N' THISTLE The Souppermoneys, 8-11 pm, free

PARLIAMENT TAVERN The Black Planes, Runaway Satellite, The Cells, 9 pm, \$8

★ A SHOWBOX SODO LANY, 8 pm, \$30/\$35

★ THE SHOWBOX Blue October, 8:15 pm, \$30/\$32

SNOQUALMIE CASINO Creedence Clearwater Revisited, 8 pm, \$40-\$70

SUBSTATION Squalus, Teepee Creeper, Summoned by Giants, Kleine, 8:30 pm, \$10/\$15

SUNSET TAVERN The Mondegreens, Tango Alpha

Tango, The Black Chevys, 9 pm, \$10

TIMBRE ROOM Jesse MacCormack, 7 pm, \$12

TRACTOR TAVERN MiniVan Morrison, Yada Yada Blues Band, 9 pm, \$15

★ TULALIP RESORT CASINO Little River Band, 8 pm

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NECTAR**FEATURED EVENTS**

6.21 Friday (Americana)
ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO
Scott Law



6.23 Sunday (Reggae)
MYKAL ROSE with
SLY & ROBBIE & THE TAXI GANG
Dub Lounge International



6.26 Wednesday (Hip-Hop)
ZION I + SLUM VILLAGE
High Step Society, Equipto, Vocab
Slick, K-Ottic



6.28 Friday (Tribute)
LDW
PLAYS TALKING HEADS
The Jauntie, Tryin'

UPCOMING EVENTS

6.19 LARRY JUNE 6.20 WORLD REFUGEE DAY CELEBRATION 6.22 FREMONT SOLSTICE CELEBRATION 6.27 JAY ELECTRONICA 7.3 JAI HO! 7.5 AROUND THE WORLD WITH KEXP 7.14 WASTED WORDS: ALLMAN BROS TRIBUTE 7.16 THE WARREN G. HARDINGS 7.17 TAL NATIONAL 7.18 BIG BRASS EXTRAVAGANZA 7.19 PRINCE VS MJ 7.20 THE GEORGETOWN ORBITS 7.23 NAPPY ROOTS 7.25 DOUG STONE 7.26 HIT EXPLOSION 7.27 TALIB KWELI 7.28 ANUHEA + SPAWNBREEZIE 7.30 DEVIN THE DUDE 7.31 CHITTY (OF NAHKO & M4TP) 8.1 & MORE 8.2 CLASSIC HIP-HOP NIGHT 8.3 WHO'S BAD: THE ULTIMATE MJ EXPERIENCE 8.7 GHOST-NOTE 8.8 SEPIATONIC 8.9 NITE WAVE 80S PARTY 8.10 MONOPHONICS 8.13 UJI 8.14 U2 TRIBUTE 8.15 JAH9 8.21 ELLIS DYSON & THE SHAMBLES 8.22 LAYNE STALEY TRIBUTE 8.23-8.24 JERRY GARCIA CELEBRATION 8.30 SADE VS BADU



6.29 Saturday (Electronic)
AN-TEN-NAE + KAMINANDA
Pressha, Torbjørn



6.30 Sunday (Tribute)
SHAFTY - PORTLAND'S TRIBUTE TO PHISH
2 sets, no openers



7.6 Saturday (DJ/Dance Party)
80S VS 90S DANCE PARTY
DJ Indica Jones, Wanz, #All4Doras



7.11 Thursday (Electronic)
RONI SIZE
Kid Hops, Pressha



7.12 Fri & 7.13 Sat (Funk / Jazz)
PBJAM FEST
Buzz Brump, Crack Sabbath, Cytrus, Fresh Track, High Pulp, Living Daylights, Skerik Band, Swindler, Unsinkable Heavies & More

PONY PRIDE 2019

BUTT STUFF
FRI 6/28 --- \$10 AFTER 8PM
DJ SUGAR!
WITH WOODY SHTICKS & STRAWBERRY SHARTCAKE

PANDEMONIUM
SAT 6/29 --- \$10 AFTER 5PM
DJS LIVWUTANG & SATURN9!
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SUN 6/30 --- \$5 AFTER 5PM
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MONDAYS:
FUCK YEAH BINGO
7-9PM

Tue, June 25 - Mon, July 1
**MECHANISMUS
FESTIVAL
WAR PACKAGE**
Funker Vogt, [-SITD:], Suicide,
Commando, Rotersand, Klute,
System Syn, Caustic, Hocico,
Shiv-r, Manuctura, Cylab,
W.A.S.T.E., Esa, c-lekktor,
Ruined Conflict, Iris, FGFC820,
Hate Dept., Reaper, Ego Likeness
7PM, \$165-\$185 War Package
7PM, \$45-\$50 Single Day Pass

Wednesday, July 3
SUFFERING HOUR
Temple of Abandonment
Cystic
Foul
9PM \$12-\$15

Friday, July 5
SUPERSTITION
Cavurn
Cerna Krev

Sunday, July 7
SHANGHAI BEACH
Child Of Night
Profit Prison
9PM \$12

Thursday, July 11
**THE RUINS OF
BEVERAST**
Dispirit
Nightfell
9PM \$20-\$25

Friday, July 12
**ELIZABETH
COLOUR WHEEL**
Drowse
Nostalgist
Dead Spells
9PM \$12-\$15

Saturday, July 13
THE CHASM
Cruciamentum
Infernal Conjunction
Solitude of Ravens
9PM \$13-\$16

Tuesday, July 16
SAVAGE BEAT
Death Ridge Boys
Toecutter
Crucial Change
8PM \$10

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THINGS TO DO → Music

**CLASSICAL/
OPERA**
THE KNIFE ROOM The Drunken
Tenor, 8-10:30 pm, \$20-\$25
TOWN HALL Town Music: Bach
to Bates, 7:30 pm, \$20

DJ/DANCE
CHOP SUEY Emo Nite, 9 pm, \$15
ORA NIGHTCLUB Confess 003:
J.Robb, 9 pm, \$15/\$20
TIMBRE ROOM Tremulant Pres.
Mk0, 10 pm-2 am, \$8
THE UNDERGROUND Elements:
Jerome Isma-ae, 10 pm-3
am, \$15
JAZZ
THE JAZZ ALLEY Brian
Culbertson, \$60
THE SLAB Secret Jazz Club
Show, 7-9 pm, \$20
TRIPLE DOOR Karrin Allyson,
7 pm, 9:30 pm, \$25-\$40
TULA'S Gail Pettis Quartet,
7:30-10:30 pm, \$22

Sat 6/22

LIVE MUSIC
BARBOZA Erin Rae & The
Heartbeets, James Anaya &
The Current, Harrison B, 7 pm,
\$10/\$12
BLACK LODGE Snuff Redux,
ings, Rose Droll, Apples with
Moya, 9 pm
CAFE RACER Collaborative
Synthesis (Bleeps+Loops:2), 9
pm-12 am, free
★ **CAL ANDERSON PARK
SHELTERHOUSE** Clyde
Petersen: Drone Butch Blues,
6 pm, free
CENTRAL SALOON The Black
Chevys, Rotgut Whines, Linda
From Work, 8 pm, \$8
CHAPEL PERFORMANCE
SPACE Lotus Lungs Album
Release Concert, 8-10 pm,
\$5-\$15
CROCODILE School of Rock
Issaquah Performs Fleetwood
Mac & Stevie Nicks, 1 pm, \$12
EL CORAZON The Pietasters,
Natalie Wouldn't, The
Sentiments, The Scotch
Bonnets, 8 pm, \$16/\$18
HOLLOW EARTH RADIO
Fabulous Downey Brothers, Don
Forgetti, Proofs, Diced Candy, 8
pm, \$7-\$15
★ **MARYMOOR PARK**
Cohed and Cambria, Mastodon,
Every Time I Die, 5:40 pm,
\$50/\$55
MOORE THEATRE Raffi, 1
pm, 4 pm, \$31-\$76
NEUMOS Vundabar, together
PANGEA, 6:30 pm, \$18/\$20
PARLIAMENT TAVERN The
Jesus Chords, Will Rainier & the
Pines, 9 pm, \$7
THE ROYAL ROOM Just So: A
Tribute to Peter Gabriel, 6:30 pm,
9:30 pm, \$12
★ **SHOWBOX SODO** LANY,
8 pm, \$30/\$35
TRIPLE DOOR MQ STAGE
Shady Bottom, 5 pm, free
★ **VERA PROJECT** Goth
Babe, Sea Salt, 8 pm, \$13/\$15

JAZZ
THE JAZZ ALLEY Brian
Culbertson, \$60
THE ROYAL ROOM In Motion
Quartet, 8 pm, free

Mon 6/24

LIVE MUSIC
BARBOZA TiRon & Ayomari,
Nonchalant Savant, J.R. Jarris, 8
pm, \$10/\$12
BELLTOWN YACHT CLUB
Worriers, Dead Bars, Cumulus,
Dusty, 8:30 pm, \$10
PETTIROSSO ex Licks, Slow
Elk, Rick Friel, Babie, Carter
Rodriguez, Whitesmith, 8-11 pm
TRACTOR TAVERN The Steel
Woods, Darci Carlson, 8 pm, \$12
★ **TRIPLE DOOR** Sonny
Landreth, 7:30 pm, \$30-\$40

Tues 6/25

LIVE MUSIC
**THE CROCODILE BACK
BAR** Wesley, Numatik, 6:30 pm,
\$15-\$50
THE FUNHOUSE Yatra,
Swampheavy, Sorcia, 8:30 pm,
\$8/\$10
JAZZ ALLEY Royal Jelly Jive,
7:30 pm, \$16
NECTAR Chris Webby, Grieves,
6 pm, \$27-\$77
NEUMOS Jamestown Revival,
Ian Noe, 7 pm, \$18/\$20
SUNSET TAVERN Professor
Sweater, Stranger Scott, Noah
Byrd, Evan Devries, 8 pm, \$10
★ **VERA PROJECT** Lev Snowe,
Miko Miko, The Flowers, 7 pm,
\$8/\$10

**CLASSICAL/
OPERA**
BENAROYA HALL Windborne's
The Music of Queen, 7:30 pm,
\$25-\$93

JAZZ
TRIPLE DOOR Jacqui Naylor,
7:30 pm, \$20-\$30

Wed 6/26

LIVE MUSIC
CENTRAL SALOON The Highest
of Heels, In Aisle Eight, Guests,
8 pm, \$8
EL CORAZON The Gladiators
with Droop Lion, I Roots, 9 pm,
\$15/\$20
★ **THE FUNHOUSE** Cemetery
Sun, The Catching, Nick Jordan,
Public Theatre, Rego, 6:30 pm,
\$10/\$12
HIGH DIVE Lofts Kirby Krackle,
Will Wakefield & The Congress
Hotel, 8 pm, \$5/\$8
JAZZ ALLEY Royal Jelly Jive,
7:30 pm, \$16
SUBSTATION Clearly Beloved,
My Evergreen Soul, Tay & the
JangLahDahs, Mike Simmons,
8 pm, \$8
TRACTOR TAVERN Shinyrubs,
#tt25, 8 pm, \$15
VERMILLION Dylan Rose,
Treestar, E.T, 8 pm
VICTORY LOUNGE Late
Bloomer, No Win, CrossTalk,
8 pm, \$8

**CLASSICAL/
OPERA**
MCCAW HALL Enchanting
China, 7:30 pm, \$48-\$168
PALACE THEATRE & ART BAR
Opera On Tap Crosses Over
Again Once More (With Feeling),
7:30 pm, \$7/\$10

Thurs 6/27

LIVE MUSIC
BLUE MOON TAVERN Atlee,
Club Mage, 9 pm, \$8
CONOR BYRNE The Regrets,
Micah Subar, J.E. Sunde, 8
pm, \$8
CROCODILE The Ocean Blue,
Dirty Sidewalks, The National
Honor Society, 7 pm, \$20/\$25
★ **THE CROCODILE BACK
BAR** The Residency Presents
The Free99 Show, 7 pm, free
HARD ROCK CAFE Noize MC,
7:30 pm
LO-FI Black Chevys, Wild Wild
Mexico, Supergenova, Bunny
and the Bear, 8:30 pm, \$8
LUCKY LIQUOR Justice
Yeldham, Jerry Core, Corey
Brewer, Happiness Forever,
Power Skeleton, Bombthreat23,
10 pm-2 am, \$10/\$15
★ **MOORE THEATRE**
Howard Jones, Men Without
Hats, All Hail The Silence, 7:30
pm, \$27-\$47
★ **NEUMOS** Mystery Skulls, 8
pm, \$15/\$18
RENDEZVOUS Anthem Single
Release Show with Badhound
and Alex Breyfogle, 9:30 pm, \$10
SEAMONSTER LOUNGE SSO,
8-9:30 pm, free
★ **THE SHOWBOX** Jacob
Collier, 8:30 pm, \$30/\$35
TRACTOR TAVERN Flatland
Cavalry, Kenny Freeman, 8
pm, \$12

DJ/DANCE
★ **LASER DOME AT PACIFIC
SCIENCE CENTER** Laser Pride,
7-10 pm, \$20
MONKEY LOFT Deck'd Out
#2 Board of Deacons Rooftop
Return, 7-11 pm, \$7
NEIGHBOURS Pride Week 2019,
free-\$20

JAZZ
★ **THE ROYAL ROOM**
Endangered Blood: Chris Speed,
Oscar Noriega, Trevor Dunn, Jim
Black, 7 pm, 9:30 pm, \$10-\$25
★ **TRIPLE DOOR** Robert Miller's
Project Grand Slam, 7:30 pm,
\$20-\$30

Fri 6/28

LIVE MUSIC
BARBOZA Dot Comet, Lovely
Colours, Public Pool, 7 pm,
\$8/\$10
BLUE MOON TAVERN TC
Superstar, Gestalt, CFCQ, 9
pm, \$8
★ **CHAPEL PERFORMANCE**
SPACE LovePunk + Christian
Swenson, 8 pm, \$5-\$15
COLUMBIA CITY THEATER
Cayucas, 8 pm, \$15/\$20
★ **THE CROCODILE BACK
BAR** Morning Glory Revival,
Nurse Ratchett, The Problem,
Frames in Motion, Black Bess, 8
pm, \$8/\$10
★ **THE FUNHOUSE**
Distinguisher, No Home, Cut Both
Ways, Prying Free, Dirtnap, 7:30
pm, \$10/\$12
HIGH DIVE Green Lake
Basement, Nedder, EMOfional
Distress, All Hype, 9 pm, \$10
★ **HOLLOW EARTH RADIO**
Somesurprises, Ami Dang,
Kendra Amalie, Drama Bahama,
8 pm, \$7-\$15
NECTAR LDW, The Jauntee,
Tryin', 8 pm, \$15/\$16
★ **NEPTUNE THEATRE**
Whiskey Myers, Brent Cobb,
8:30 pm, \$21/\$24
**SLIM'S LAST CHANCE CHILI
SHACK AND WATERING HOLE**
Black Guitar Records Showcase,
7 pm-2 am
SUNSET TAVERN Matthew
Logan Vasquez, Walker Lukens,
PR Newman, 8:30 pm, \$16
TRACTOR TAVERN Bruiser
Brody, Jericho Hill, Solartone,
9 pm, \$15
★ **TRIPLE DOOR** Greg Brown,
7 pm, \$47
★ **VERA PROJECT** Pull Up, 8
pm, \$10-\$20

**CLASSICAL/
OPERA**
★ **BLESSED SACRAMENT
CHURCH** Mozart and Haydn
Concert, 7:30-9 pm, \$10-\$20

Sat 6/29

LIVE MUSIC
BARBOZA Basins, Camp Crush,
7 pm, \$10
★ **BLACK LODGE** City Hunter,
Iron Lung, Mortiferum, Nasti,
8 pm
BLUE MOON TAVERN
Snowday, Guests, 9 pm, \$8
CONOR BYRNE The Silver Snails
& Friends, 9 pm, \$7
CROCODILE Among Authors,
Ravenna Woods, Dust Moth,
Racoma, 8 pm, \$10/\$12
THE FUNHOUSE As Cities
Burn, All Get Out, Many Rooms,
Afterwards, 8:20 pm, \$20
HIGH DIVE Prom Date Mixtape,
9 pm, \$10/\$15
★ **HOLLOW EARTH RADIO**
Vivian, Johnny Raincloud, Lo Fives,
Proud Dad, 9 pm-12 am, \$7-\$15
THE KRAKEN BAR & LOUNGE
Ol' Doris, Le Saboteur, Heck Yes,
Far Flung Future, 8 pm, \$7

LUCKY LIQUOR Colorworks, Broth, Barnaby Jones, Shark Legs, 8 pm, \$7

🕒 **MARYMOOR PARK** Rebellion, Collie Buddz, Durand Jones & the Indications, 6 pm, \$22-\$40

NECTAR An-ten-nae, Kaminanda, Pressha, Torbj-/TJrn, 8 pm, \$15-\$21

🕒 **THE ROYAL ROOM** School of Rock Issaquah, 5-7:30 pm, \$12/\$15

THE ROYAL ROOM Zony Mash, The Royal We, 9 pm, \$15

SUBSTATION Lost Tribe, Jamie Blake, Joza, 8 pm, \$12/\$15

SUNSET TAVERN Killer Workout, Golden Idols, Electric NoNo, 9 pm, \$10

🕒 **TRIPLE DOOR** LeRoy Bell & His Only Friends, 7 pm, 9:30 pm, \$30-\$40

CLASSICAL/ OPERA

🕒 **CHAPEL PERFORMANCE SPACE** Sound of Late: Let the Light Enter, 8-9 pm, \$5-\$15

DJ/DANCE

CONTOUR Psy Ops Presents Queer Ops: A Seattle LGBTQ Pride Celebration, 9:30 pm-2 am, \$10

CUFF Cuff Pride Block Party 2019, 12 pm-2 am, \$30-\$55

FRED WILDLIFE REFUGE Queer Magic Dance Party: A Camp Ten Trees Fundraiser, 9 pm-2 am, \$15-\$50

★ **GRIM'S** Pride Is For Everyone 2019, 5 pm, \$30

THE ISLANDER CRUISE SHIP The Annual Pride Cruise 2019, 12-4 pm, \$40

KREMWERK Pride Saturday 2019: Bézier, Princess Superstar, Larry Tee, Paradox Rei, 5 pm, \$15-\$18

KREMWERK Revival: Lights Out, 3-7 am, \$10/\$15

NEIGHBOURS Pride Week 2019, free-\$20

ORA NIGHTCLUB Quivver, Lesse Leer, Hherb, 10 pm, \$10/\$15

★ **ORIENT EXPRESS** Train Car Pride Party: Riz and Rob = Won Love!, 10 am-10 pm, free

Q NIGHTCLUB Haute Sauce: Famous, Swervewon, Catch24, Woolbeanie, 10 pm-2 am, \$10

JAZZ

🕒 **TOWN HALL** Love of Life: Vincent Courtois, Daniel Erdmann, Robin Finker, 8 pm, \$10-\$20

Sun 6/30

LIVE MUSIC

BARBOZA Van Hunt, 8 pm, \$15/\$18

CHOP SUEY Dream Logic, Salmonberries, Brianna Skye & the Dark Clouds, 7 pm, \$8/\$10

★ 🕒 **COLUMBIA CITY THEATER** Imagination Movers, 1 pm, \$20/\$35

🕒 **THE FUNHOUSE** Conman Economy, Sub-Radio, Bork Laser, Face the Sun, 7:30 pm, \$10/\$12

NECTAR Shafty - Portland's Tribute to Phish, 8 pm, \$10-\$16

🕒 **NEUMOS** Remo Drive, Slow Pulp, Heart to Gold, 7 pm, \$17/\$19

RENDEZVOUS Willa Barnett, 6:30 pm, \$5

SKYLARK CAFE & CLUB Hate Drugs, Patternist, Jet Black Alley Cat, 7 pm, \$10

SUNSET TAVERN Dravus House, Lili St Anne, Mariko Ruhle, 8 pm, \$10

★ **TRACTOR TAVERN** American Aquarium, Brandy Zdan, 8 pm, \$15

TRIPLE DOOR MQ STAGE Tenth Mountain Division, 5 pm, free

DJ/DANCE

CUFF Cuff Pride Block Party 2019, 12 pm-2 am, \$30-\$55

★ **GRIM'S** Pride Is For Everyone 2019, 5 pm, \$30

NEIGHBOURS Pride Week 2019, free-\$20

RE-BAR Re-Bar & Kremwerk Present Seattle Pride Sunday Tea Dance, 4-8 pm, free

RE-BAR Flammable Pride Edition!, 10 pm-2:30 am, \$13-\$25

REDHOOK BREWLAB Pride: Woodlands T-Dance with Lucas Flamefly, 12-8 pm, \$25-\$85

★ **TIMBRE ROOM** BabexHouse at Kremwerk Pride, 9 pm-2 am

JAZZ

🕒 **TRIPLE DOOR** The Brian Nova Big Band, 7:30 pm, \$20/\$25

Mon 7/1

LIVE MUSIC

THE FUNHOUSE Street Cleaner, Jak Syn, Psyk, 8:30 pm, \$10/\$13

SUNSET TAVERN Dream Queen, Psych Major, Dangg Archons, 8:30 pm, \$10

CLASSICAL/ OPERA

★ 🕒 **BENAROYA HALL** 2019 Seattle Chamber Music Society Summer Festival, 7 pm, 8 pm

JAZZ

🕒 **THE ROYAL ROOM** Cold Spell, Modern Bridges, 7:30 pm, free

Tues 7/2

LIVE MUSIC

CHOP SUEY Adebisi, Lunarbase, Snaccs, 8 pm, \$8/\$10

LO-FI Trebled Morels, Sweet Creature, Maneken Hand, Crow Magnet, 8 pm, \$8

SEAMONSTER LOUNGE Stingshark Birthday Party, 8-9:30 pm, free

SUNSET TAVERN Origami Ghosts, Black Ends, Real Guy, 8 pm, \$10

🕒 **TRIPLE DOOR** The Singing OUT Tour 2019, 7:30 pm, \$15-\$20

JAZZ

JAZZ ALLEY Acoustic Alchemy, 7:30 pm, \$35

Wed 7/3

LIVE MUSIC

BARBOZA Biddadat, Eclectrick, i//u, 8 pm, \$10/\$15

THE FUNHOUSE Bad Saint, Flow Resale, Payge Turner, 8:30 pm, \$5/\$7

HIGHLINE Suffering Hour, Temple of Abandonment, Cystic, Foul, 9 pm, \$12/\$15

THE KRAKEN BAR & LOUNGE Struggle Session, Toecutter, Open Veins, City of Industry, 8 pm, \$7

🕒 **NEPTUNE THEATRE** Chase Atlantic, Lauren Sanderson, 8 pm, \$17/\$19

RENDEZVOUS Activism in American Roots Music with Gabrielle Louise, Ben Hunter & Joe Seamons, 6:30 pm, \$25

THE ROYAL ROOM World Beat Night: Rhythms from Black Panther, 8 pm, \$10/\$15

SUBSTATION Teresa and The Wolves, Pastel Motel, Kotlovan, 8 pm, \$8

SUNSET TAVERN Honeysuckle, Bart Budwig, Navid Eliot, 8 pm, \$10

🕒 **TRIPLE DOOR** Southern Avenue, 8 pm, \$18/\$20

CLASSICAL/ OPERA

★ 🕒 **BENAROYA HALL** 2019 Seattle Chamber Music Society Summer Festival, 7 pm, 8 pm

🕒 **BENAROYA HALL** Seattle Wind Symphony Presents Star-Spangled Spectacular, 7:30-9:30 pm, free

DJ/DANCE

NECTAR Red, White, & Bollywood Jai Ho! Party, 9 pm, \$12/\$15

JAZZ

JAZZ ALLEY Acoustic Alchemy, 7:30 pm, \$35

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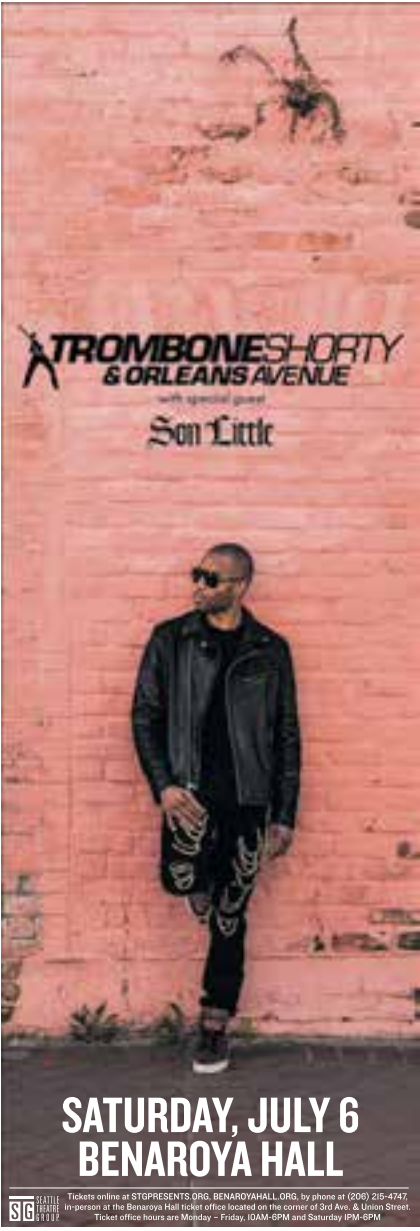
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CHASE ATLANTIC
LAUREN SANDERSON

SAT JULY 13
ROB BELL:
AN INTRODUCTION TO JOY

FRI JULY 26
NO SLEEP TILL TOKYO
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RISING APPALACHIA
RAYE

OCTOBER 9
THE WATERBOYS

FRI OCTOBER 11
THE CROSSOVER TOUR
SID SRIRAM

ON SALE NOW!
SAT OCTOBER 12
BIG K.R.I.T.

OCTOBER 19
STARSET
PALISADES | HYDE

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SAT OCTOBER 19
BIG BOI

OCTOBER 24
KERO KERO BONITO

FRI OCTOBER 25
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SAT NOVEMBER 16
DRAGONS TOUR
DREW HOLCOMB
& **THE NEIGHBORS**

FRI NOVEMBER 22
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CHRISTINA P

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PETER SAGAL

SAT DECEMBER 7
ANDREW SCHULZ

ON SALE NOW!
FRI DECEMBER 13
WATCH WHAT CRAPPENS

ON SALE FRI 10AM
FRI DECEMBER 20
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AMERICAN HYSTERIA
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FRIDAY, JUNE 28
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SUNDAY, JUNE 30
IMAGINATION MOVERS
1PM MATINEE SHOW

SATURDAY, JULY 6
DARK DIAMONDS BURLESQUE
RAW
THE EMERALD CUT

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10
THE OTHER FAVORITES
REINA DEL CID

FRIDAY, JULY 12
FREAKSHEAUX TO GEAUX
W/ THE DEBAUCHERAUNTES

SATURDAY, JULY 13
FANTASY A DONORMAAL

UPCOMING SHOWS

SUNDAY, JULY 14
TYLER RAMSEY & CARL BROEMEL

TUESDAY, JULY 16
YEEK

WED & THUR, JULY 17 & 18
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MICHAEL GODHIGH

SATURDAY, JULY 20
SUNNIE LARSEN

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24
LIL LOTUS, SMRTDEATH,
GUCCIHIGHWATERS

FRIDAY, JULY 26
EMANUEL BROWN

SATURDAY, JULY 27
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KNIFE HEART JUNE 21-27

"Critic's pick!" THE NEW YORK TIMES

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THINGS TO DO → Film

Gay Porn, Murder, and a Killer Soundtrack

Knife + Heart is a new giallo-inspired French film scored by M83.

BY CHASE BURNS

Gay people really like horror movies. It's a fact that has plagued me. My gay friends and partners are always offended when I tell them I don't like horror. As if it were a moral failing. My current boyfriend once informed me that if I liked and watched horror movies, it would improve his quality of life. He said I should "rethink my choices."

Thankfully for him, and my relationship, I've been introduced to a horror genre that has opened my eyes to the majesty of murder: *giallo*.

Giallo (or gialli if it's plural) is a mostly-Italian-made thriller-horror genre that peaked in popularity around the mid-1970s. The giallo film that hooked me was Dario Argento's *Deep Red*, which I'm now embarrassed to admit I didn't watch sooner.

Deep Red was unlike any horror film I'd seen before: gorgeous, funny, frightening. Murder underscored by Italian prog rock. Art deco castles stained with technicolor blood. Psychics crashing through glass windows. Today it comes across as campy, with more time put into visual storytelling than character development, which I love. If characters are going to get senselessly slaughtered, who cares if they make sense?

I watched two more giallo films right after I finished *Deep Red*. I was hooked.

I say all of this to introduce *Knife + Heart* (*Un couteau dans le coeur*), a new giallo-inspired French outing from director Yann



Nicolas Maury as porn star and potential victim Archibald Langevin.

Gonzalez. It was one of my favorite offerings at this year's Seattle International Film Festival, and Grand Illusion Cinema is bringing it back just in time for Pride.

Knife + Heart is a strong contemporary

giallo, albeit on the campier side. Its plot—not its most important attribute—is pretty simple: A masked killer is on the loose. He's murdering young gay porn actors. No one knows what to do.

Vanessa Paradis stars as a porn producer named Anne, who keeps losing actors to the murderer. Paradis, an internationally famous French actress who first achieved success at 14 for her kitschy hit single "Joe le Taxi," is perhaps best known in the United States for her relationship with Johnny Depp. He was her partner for 14 years.

In *Knife + Heart*, Anne decides her actors' murders are good publicity. She makes a porno about their deaths, an exploitative masterpiece cleverly titled *Homocidal*. But Anne is mostly preoccupied by the dramatic love affair she's carrying on with her editor, Lois, played by Kate Moran. Booze, sex, boners, tears, and blood ensue.

Like a good giallo, *Knife + Heart*'s mood is often more important than its plot or character development. And the aesthetics are memorable: The killer uses a dildo with a hidden switchblade knife. There are artisanal leather murder masks. Decadently glittery gloves. Cabaret scenes featuring sluts in bear costumes.

Also like a good giallo: The film has a killer soundtrack to underscore the bloodshed. It's by M83, the dreamy synth-pop band behind the hit 2011 single "Midnight City." (M83's main member, Anthony Gonzalez, is the director's brother.) Their music makes the film feel drugged-out and euphoric, like climaxing at 5 a.m. after partying all night. Except in *Knife + Heart*, the characters might not survive to see daylight. ■

Top Picks

FRI JUNE 21

Meaningful Movies: 'I Am Not Your Negro'

An ingeniously constructed documentary about one of the 20th century's greatest, and more conflicted, artist/polemicists, *I Am Not Your Negro* is built from the proposal for *Remember This House*, the book James Baldwin never finished. As Samuel Jackson's voice-over mingles with archival footage of Baldwin laying waste to his intellectual opposition on TV—and by the way, let's pause for a moment to consider a time when a figure as radically attuned, and as volcanically erudite, and as sexually nonconforming as James Baldwin could have appeared regularly on network television—director Raoul Peck conveys the sense of a writer who has come to understand an idea that is bigger than he has the mortal strength to convey, which would almost make the film a tragedy within the context of the larger systemic tragedy its subject yearned to articulate. But even a glimpse of Baldwin's prose is such a feast for mind, body, and soul that a film like *I Am Not Your Negro* can only be received

with joy, humility, and deepest admiration. (Northwest African American Museum, 6 pm, free.) SEAN NELSON

'This Is Spinal Tap'

The *Citizen Kane* of music mockumentaries, Rob Reiner's 1984 classic is a pitch-perfect deflation of rock-band pretensions and aspirations. It's an acerbic roasting of lyric-writing, song-titling, stagecraft, guitar-worship, amp settings, drummer mishaps, and crotch-enhancement, among other things. Impeccable cast members Harry Shearer, Christopher Guest, and Michael McKean helped Reiner write the hilarious script, which deconstructs music documentaries' tendency to deify their subjects. *This Is Spinal Tap* has entered the popular culture pantheon, becoming a perpetual reference point for any act of absurd pomposity in the entertainment biz. It belongs in heavy rotation in any cinéaste's viewing regimen. (SIFF Cinema Uptown, 7 and 9:15 pm, \$14.) DAVE SEGAL

JUNE 23–28

'Before Stonewall: The Making of a Gay and Lesbian Community'

In the wee hours of June 28, 1969, NYC police raided a Greenwich Village gay bar called Stone-

wall Inn, which led to three nights of rioting and ultimately initiated the modern LGBTQ liberation movement. Originally released in 1984, *Before Stonewall: The Making of a Gay and Lesbian Community* offered a decade-by-decade history of homosexuality in America leading up to that charged moment via archival footage and interviews with pioneering cultural figures and activists who experienced the closeted history firsthand, many of whom have since passed—Audre Lorde, Allen Ginsberg, Richard Bruce Nugent, and Barbara Gittings among them. While it may seem like ancient history, LGBTQ Americans are still fighting for equality, whether it's in the bathroom or a wedding cake shop, which makes the theatrical rerelease of a newly restored edition of the doc (which is screening at NWFF in conjunction with Seattle Pride) feel more relevant than ever. (Northwest Film Forum, \$12.) LEILANI POLK

OPENING WED JULY 3

'Midsommar'

If you share the widespread opinion that Ari Aster's debut feature, *Hereditary*, is one of the most stressful, beautiful, cathartic horror movies ever made, then you've been waiting with

bated breath for his follow-up. *Midsommar* is a brightly lit, flowery folk nightmare about a troubled American couple (Florence Pugh and Will Poulter) traveling to rural Sweden to take part in some sort of charming outdoor festival. The trailer makes it look like 1973's *Wicker Man* with a dash of sexual jealousy and a gallon of hallucinatory terror. Please peer up from your slimy burrows, O gods of fright-night entertainment, and let *Midsommar* be as great as it looks. (Wide release.) JOULE ZELMAN

MORE StrangerThingsToDo.com

Short List

The Last Back Man in San Francisco
SIFF Cinema Uptown, opening Thurs June 20, \$11/\$14

Mad Max: Fury Road
Central Cinema, June 28–July 2, \$5–\$10

Pasolini
Grand Illusion, June 28–July 3, \$10

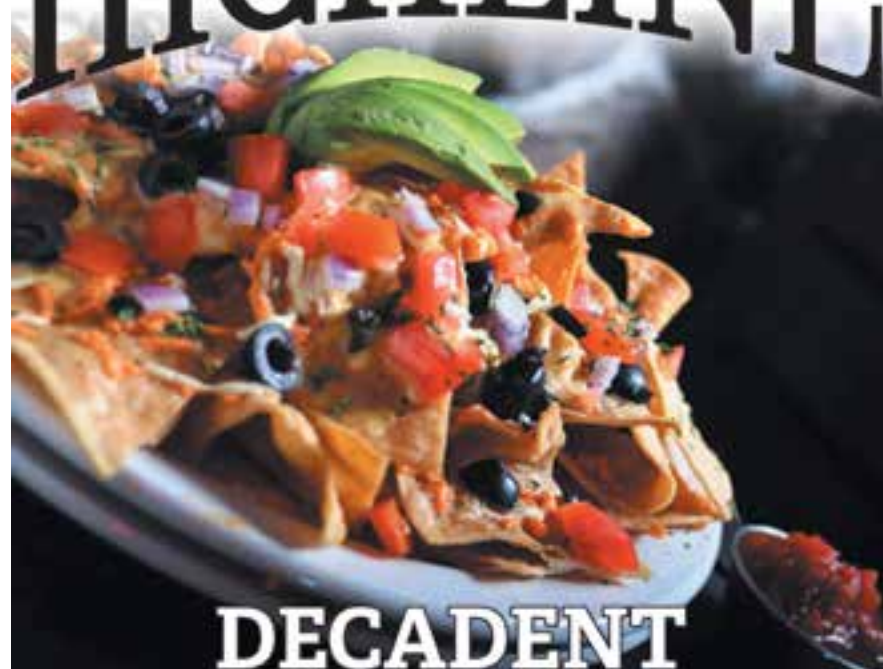
Seattle Taiwanese American Film Festival
SIFF Cinema Uptown, June 22–26, \$12/\$69

Stop Making Sense
SIFF Cinema Uptown, Thurs June 27, \$14

Toy Story 4
Wide release, opening Fri June 21

Yesterday
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THINGS TO DO → Food & Drink

The Best Little Queer Pizzeria in Seattle

Little Maria's Pizza serves delicious slices in a queer-friendly atmosphere.

BY JASMYNE KEIMIG



KINGMON CREATIVE

A 'RuPaul's Drag Race' viewing party with Americano (left) at Little Maria's.

After watching two hours of drag at Kremwerk on a recent Saturday night, I walked out knowing just what my drunk self needed. Something hot. Something tasty. Something immensely carb heavy to act as sand on the exposed nuclear reactor that was the alcohol in my stomach. Luckily, the answer was right above me: Little Maria's, a tiny pizzeria located directly above the Kremwerk complex.

Open since 2016, Little Maria's Pizza is without a doubt one of the best places to get hot, cheap, delicious food while also rubbing elbows with some of the most talented (and weirdest) drag entertainers in Seattle. You'll find no better atmosphere to discuss meaty tucks while tucking into some meaty slices.

Owner Nicole Stone—who also started Kremwerk and the adjacent Timbre Room—told me that Little Maria's was founded out of a deep need to feed enthusiastic partyers. And what's better than pizza?

"I wanted to have something that was user-friendly for when people are drinking and dancing, and pizza seemed to be a great fit," Stone told me over the phone recently. "I'm a trans woman, and I wanted a place where the staff could be themselves and be free... So that was why it was really important that we have a queer little pizzeria. I didn't think there was any place like that in Seattle."

And the space is pretty freeing. One of the best parts about being in Little Maria's before or after a drag event is seeing a six-foot-five queen teetering on tall heels, wig off,

eyebrows still on, ordering a slice while her partner loves up on her. Visibly and proudly queer people, both in front of and behind the counter, inhabit every inch of Little Maria's.

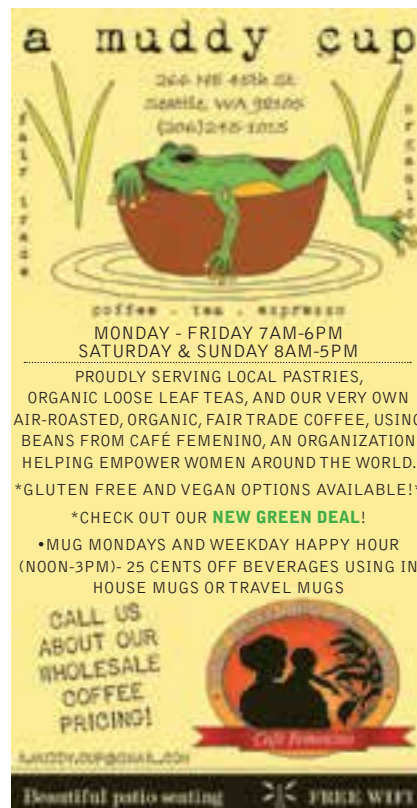
The pizza is pretty fucking delicious, too. I've definitely talked shit between ravenous bites of a slice of Thunder, a perfect balance of salty meat (pepperoni, sausage, salami, and bacon), cheese, and airy crust. (It's one of their most popular offerings.) I've sung some queen's high praises while devouring a Roma (pepperoni, sausage, mushroom, and olive). Both pair well with an ice-cold beer and hefty doses of Parmesan and red pepper flakes.

For all you vegetarians out there, the Prince-inspired Darling Nikki (pesto base, feta, garlic, artichokes, and onion) is filling and satisfying as well, a scrumptious alternative for those looking to get their edible kicks from something other than copious amounts of cheese.

All around the long, rather narrow space, you'll find gaggles of colorfully dressed queers crammed into booths or balancing a takeout box while smoking outside, waiting for a Lyft to take them home or to the next party. It's a place of both random chance and grease.

"To me, that's what makes Little Maria's so special, because we are queer, and where Little Maria's is located, we have all these high-end skyscraper [residents] coming in," said Stone. "We want those people to be very aware that we are a queer establishment and this is a place where everybody should feel safe." And we do, Nicole, we do. ■

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THINGS TO DO → Food & Drink

Top Picks

SUN JUNE 23



ERIC WOLFINGER

Author Talk: 'Bottom of the Pot' by Naz Deravian

Author Naz Deravian was just 8 when she left Iran with her family during the Iranian Revolution. In the process of bouncing from Rome to Vancouver over the following decade, the family sought comfort in Persian meals that conjured memories of home, including aash (a soul-warming soup made with herbs, legumes, and grains), pomegranate and walnut chicken, and tahdig (the prized crunchy crust that forms on the bottom of the rice pot). Later, as an aspiring actress in Los Angeles, Deravian would call her mother to walk her through re-creating the dishes at home. Deravian went on to create an award-winning Persian cooking blog called Bottom of the Pot and recently published her debut cookbook of the same name. She'll share stories and cooking secrets (perhaps how to achieve that perfectly crisp rice crust?) at Book Larder. (Book Larder, 11 am, free.) JULIANNE BELL

JUNE 24-30

Negroni Week

The refreshingly bitter, glowing-crimson aperitif—made with equal parts gin, Campari, and sweet vermouth, and garnished with an orange peel—is so beloved, it now has its own week. Bars all over Seattle will be shaking up their own variations of the cocktail to benefit charitable organizations. If the concept of gulping Negronis to combat the world's ills sounds too good to be true, you're probably right: As former *Stranger* food writer Angela Garbes wrote in 2016, "Started in 2013 by Campari and *Imbibe* magazine, Negroni Week is most definitely a marketing ploy benefitting a global corporation. Feel free to plot the overthrow of our corporate power regime as you throw back another Negroni." (Various locations.) JULIANNE BELL

TUES JUNE 25

Author Talk: 'Cooking in Iran' by Najmieh Batmanglij

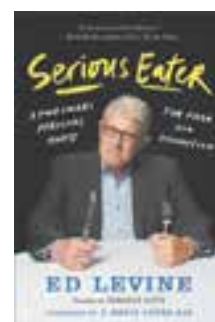
When she was 32, Najmieh Batmanglij was exiled from Iran after the Iranian Revolution in 1979 and fled with her husband to France, where she discovered a passion for cooking. The couple then relocated to Washington, DC, where Batmanglij built a career as a chef and award-winning, world-renowned cookbook author. Chef Yotam Ottolenghi

has called her the "goddess of Iranian cooking." In the early aughts, she started yearning to visit her homeland and returned for the first time in 2015, more than 35 years after she left. That experience led to her latest book, *Cooking in Iran: Regional Recipes & Kitchen Secrets*, in which she imparts the findings from her journey and uncovers traditional regional recipes. At Book Larder, she'll demo a dish from the book and share stories from her travels. (Book Larder, 6:30 pm, free.) JULIANNE BELL

WED JUNE 26

Ed Levine: 'Serious Eater'

In 2005, with just \$100, freelance food writer Ed Levine created a personal blog with the humble goal of uncovering the best burgers, hot dogs, pizza, and bagels in the world. That blog, Serious Eats, would blossom into one of the internet's most important destinations for intel on all things edible and launch a full-fledged community for food lovers. In his new book, *Serious Eater: A Food Lover's Perilous Quest for Pizza and Redemption*, he chronicles the heretofore untold tale of the website's ascent, supplemented by recipes from "chief culinary consultant" Kenji López-Alt and "resident pastry wizard" Stella Parks. At Town Hall, he and López-Alt will share the story of how their publication evolved. (Town Hall, 7:30 pm, \$5.) JULIANNE BELL



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New Bars & Restaurants

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1417 Broadway

Life on Mars
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vegan food
722 E Pike St

DOWNTOWN
Cortina Cafe
Coffee shop from Ethan
Stowell
621 Union St

INTERBAY
Addo: 206
Puerto Rican food and
burgers inside Batch 206
Distillery
1417 Elliott Ave W

KIRKLAND
Traditional hearth
oven restaurant inside
Heathman Hotel
220 Kirkland Ave

RENTON
Catfish Corner Express
New location of beloved
Southern restaurant
11805 Renton Ave S

WEST SEATTLE
Habit Burger Grill
Char-grilled burger chain
3501 SW Avalon Way

WHITE CENTER
The Swallow
Sailor-themed LGBTQ bar
from cocreator and former
manager of Pony
9608 16th Ave SW

Short List

**Author Talk: Every Day
Is Saturday** by Sarah
Copeland
Book Larder, Thurs June
20, 6:30 pm, free

**Author Talk: Husbands
That Cook** by Ryan Al-
varez and Adam Merrin
Book Larder, Thurs June
27, 6:30-8 pm, free

Bacon Eggs & Kegs
CenturyLink Field, June
22-23, 11 am-3 pm,
\$35-\$45

**Garden Party
Thursdays**
Hotel Sorrento, Thurs,
4-8 pm, through Aug 29

**Magnuson Park
Night Market**
Magnuson Park, Thurs
June 20, 4-9 pm, free

Rosé Solstice Soirée
Mr. West, Thurs June 20,
5-8 pm, \$29

**Seattle Night
Market: Asia**
South Lake Union
Saturday Market, Sat
June 22, 4-10 pm, free



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A N H B I S A E H O U S E O F H O N G M

Answers: Panera Bread, Seattle Art Museum, Ride the Ducks, Leaning Tower of Pisa, Bank of America, Your Bedroom, Pho Bac Sup Shop, Tubs Subs, Streetcar, Nordstrom Rack, Aurora Ave, Canlis, Seattle Pinball Museum, TSA Line, The Big Dump, House of Hoag, Daiso, All Rapid Rides, Honey Bucket on Boren and Madison, Jazz Alley, Dance Church

Eh... Oh! BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

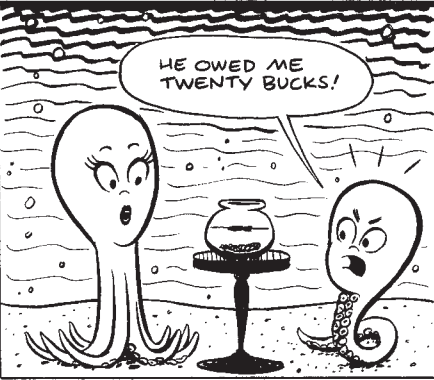
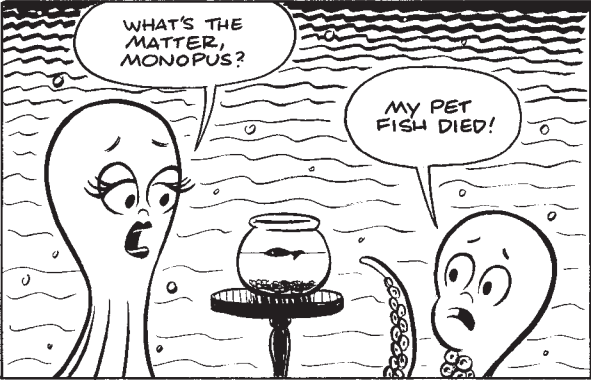
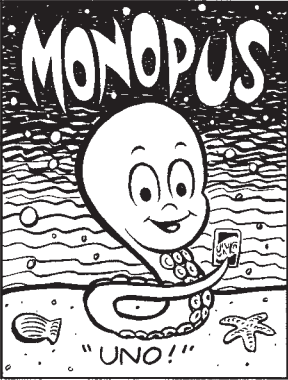
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63					64						65			

- ACROSS**

 - Lunch spot
 - Calendar listing: Abbr.
 - "Get a ____"
 - Has second feelings about
 - "Game of Thrones" actor ____Hempstead Wright
 - Adroitness
 - Carpet's measurement
 - One who slams into Nemo's forgetful friend?
 - Strong urge from a UK political party?
 - Silver of statistics
 - Tennis champ Monica
 - Highway covering
 - Kind of tea
 - Covers up, secretly
 - Historian's expertise
 - Salary for someone who works for Queen?
 - Nose-up-in-the-air type
 - Topics in string theory?
 - Thom ____ (bargain shoe brand)
 - One who gooses a Shetland?
 - Party game that some players skip
 - Buttercup kin
 - Announced as gay (yes, yes)
 - Seek for something
 - Rich soil
- DOWN**

 - [Grumble]
 - Note with a national side
 - Stare at rudely
 - "Because, and that's final"
 - Unified
 - Cuts down a bit
 - Treats
 - "Doin' work," initially
 - "Love birds, knock it off!"
 - Hair metal band with an unnecessary double letter
 - "When you put that way..."
 - Pricing word
 - One put on a pedestal
 - Take a piece?
 - Boo bird's cry
- Low cards
 - Sycophantic stock market pessimist?
 - Treasure container that's as old as the hills?
 - Org. with a "Know Your Rights" page
 - Look up and down
 - 2007 horror sequel
 - Lunch time
 - Event when you might see some body?
 - Blows away
 - Patellar groove spot
- Nearby objects
 - Pig of kiddie TV
 - ____ the side of caution
 - Clinton's running mate
 - Jedi fighters
 - Warts and all
 - American Revolutionary patriot Silas
 - Bishops' group
 - Approving
 - "Gentleman Jack" diarist Lister
 - Sneezy buddy
 - Big name in kids clothing
 - Fanciful verse
 - Looking up
 - ____ Stadium (Vikings home)
 - Lerner's composing partner
 - Date night spot?
 - 1999 Matthew McConaughey movie that predicted the reality genre
 - Brutus's cover up?
 - Stroll around the block
 - Spring break?
 - Demand-ing class?: Abbr.
 - Burn soother
 - Hard-to-read old letter
 - "I'm not seeing it"
 - Farm-to-your-table letters

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JOHNNY SAMPSON



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